



(12) **United States Plant Patent**
Domen

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP22,508 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 21, 2012**

(54) **CORNUS PLANT NAMED ‘MELANIE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Cornus kousa*
Varietal Denomination: **Melanie**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/806,251**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 7, 2010**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **Plt./220**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** Plt./220
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

UPOV-ROM GTITM, Plant Variety Database, 2011/01, GTI Jouve
Retrieval Software, Citation for plant ‘Melanie’.*

* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Cornus* plant named ‘Melanie’,
characterized by its upright plant habit; moderately vigorous
growth habit; and white and green variegated leaves with
red-colored apices; leaves becoming red in color in the
autumn.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Cornus kousa*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘MELANIE’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Cornus* plant, commercially produced as an ornamental
shrub, botanically known as *Cornus kousa* and hereinafter
referred to by the name ‘Melanie’.

The new *Cornus* plant is a product of a planned breeding
program conducted by the Inventor in Wernhout, The Neth-
erlands. The objective of the breeding program was to
develop new *Cornus* plants with improved growth habit and
unique leaf coloration.

The new *Cornus* plant originated from an open-pollination
in 2003 of an unnamed selection of *Cornus kousa*, not pat-
ented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selec-
tion of *Cornus kousa*. The new *Cornus* plant was discovered
and selected by the Inventor from within the progeny of the
stated open-pollination in a controlled environment in Wern-
hout, The Netherlands in 2003.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Cornus* plant by softwood
cuttings in a controlled environment in Lottum, The Nether-
lands since 2005, has shown that the unique features of this
new *Cornus* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in
successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Cornus* have not been observed under all
possible conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with
variations in environment such as temperature and light inten-
sity without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are
determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Melanie’.
These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Melanie’ as
a new and distinct cultivar of *Cornus* plant:

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1. Upright plant habit.
2. Moderately vigorous growth habit.
3. White and green variegated leaves with red-colored api-
ces; leaves becoming red in color in the autumn.

5 Plants of the new *Cornus* differ from plants of the female
parent selection primarily in leaf color as plants of the female
parent selection have green-colored leaves.

Plants of the new *Cornus* can also be compared to plants of
Cornus kousa ‘Snowboy’, not patented. Plants of the new
10 *Cornus* differ from plants of ‘Snowboy’ in the following
characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Cornus* are taller than plants of ‘Snow-
boy’.
2. Plants of the new *Cornus* are stronger and more durable
15 than plants of ‘Snowboy’.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the over-
all appearance of the new *Cornus* plant showing the colors as
true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproduc-
tions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ
slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical
description which accurately describe the colors of the new
25 *Cornus* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet comprises a side perspec-
tive view of a typical plant of ‘Melanie’ grown in a container.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of
typical leaves of ‘Melanie’.

30 The photograph on the third sheet is a close-up view of
typical leaves of ‘Melanie’ with fall coloration.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

35 The aforementioned photographs and following observa-
tions, measurements and values describe plants grown in
three-liter containers in Lottum, The Netherlands, under
commercial practice in an outdoor nursery. During the pro-

duction of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 8° C. to 23° C. and night temperatures ranged from 1° C. to 15° C. Plants were three years old when the photographs and description were taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society 5
Colour Chart, 2007 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Cornus kousa* 'Melanie'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—Unnamed selection of *Cornus* 10
kousa, not patented.

Male, or pollen parent.—Unknown selection of *Cornus*
kousa, not patented.

Plant description:

Root description.—Fine, fibrous; grey to black in color. 15

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant form/habit.—Upright deciduous shrub; somewhat 15
outwardly spreading form; freely branching habit,
about 39 lateral branches per plant; moderately vig-
orous growth habit. 20

Plant height.—About 85 cm.

Plant width (spread).—About 43.2 cm.

Lateral branches.—Length: About 16.9 cm. Diameter:
About 2.5 mm. Internode length: About 4.3 cm. 25
Strength: Strong. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color,
developing stems: Close to 187A to 187B. Color,
fully developed stems: Close to 195A becoming
closer to 199B to 199D.

Foliage description:

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple. 30

Length.—About 5.7 cm.

Width.—About 2.9 cm.

Shape.—Elliptic to ovate or obovate.

Apex.—Acuminate.

Base.—Rounded to short attenuate. 35

Margin.—Entire; undulate.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces.—Smooth, glabrous.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Color.—Developing leaves, upper surface: Center, close
to 147B; towards the margins, close to N155B or 69B
to 69C; towards the apex, close to 58A. Developing
leaves, lower surface: Center, close to 191B; towards
the margins, close to N155B or 69D; towards the
apex, close to 58B. Fully expanded leaves, upper sur-
face: Center, between 189A and 191A with scattered
random blotches, close to 192A to 192B; towards the
margins, close to 155A to 157D; towards the apex,
close to 58A; venation, close to 193A. During the
autumn, center color becomes closer to 178A to 183A
to 183B and towards the margins and apex, close to
181A to 184C. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface:
Center, close to 191A to 191B; towards the margins,
close to 155A; towards the apex, close to 58B; vena-
tion, close to 194A.

Petiole.—Length: About 2 mm. Diameter: About 1.2
mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, gla-
brous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to
145A.

Flower description: Flower initiation and development has
not been observed on plants of the new *Cornus*.

Disease/pest resistance: Plants of the new *Cornus* have not
been noted to be resistant to pathogens and pests common
to *Cornus*.

Temperature tolerance: Plants of the new *Cornus* have been
observed to tolerate high temperatures of about 35° C. and
to be hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 6.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Cornus* plant named 'Melanie' as
illustrated and described.

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