



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

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(54) **BARBERRY PLANT NAMED ‘KASIA’**

(50) Latin Name: *Berberis thunbergii*  
Varietal Denomination: **Kasia**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Barberry* plant named ‘Kasia’, characterized by its compact and low mounding plant habit; vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit; leaves that are yellow green to yellow in color; young leaf margins edged with orange red in the spring; good garden performance and resistance to sun scald; and resistance to Black Stem Rust.

**2 Drawing Sheets**

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Botanical designation: *Berberis thunbergii*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘KASIA’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Barberry* plant, botanically known as *Berberis thunbergii* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Kasia’.

The new *Barberry* plant is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Grand Haven, Mich. The objective of the breeding program was to develop new unique *Barberry* plants with attractive foliage, improved stress tolerance and resistance to Black Stem Rust (*Puccinia graminis*).

The new *Barberry* plant originated from an open-pollination in June, 2003 of *Barberry thunbergii* ‘Golden Pygmy’, not patented, as the female, or seed parent and an unknown selection of *Barberry thunbergii* as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Barberry* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor during the summer of 2006 as a single plant within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a controlled environment in Grand Haven, Mich.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Barberry* plant by soft-wood cuttings in a controlled greenhouse environment in Grand Haven, Mich. since the summer of 2006 has shown that the unique features of this new *Barberry* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Plants of the new *Barberry* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions such as temperature and light intensity without, however, any variance in genotype.

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

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1. Compact and low mounding plant habit.
2. Vigorous growth habit.
3. Freely branching habit.
4. Leaves that are yellow green to yellow in color; young leaf margins edged with orange red in the spring.
5. Good garden performance and resistance to sun scald.
6. Resistance to Black Stem Rust.

Plants of the new *Barberry* can be compared to plants of the female parent, ‘Golden Pygmy’. Plants of the new *Barberry* differ from plants of ‘Golden Pygmy’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Barberry* are more compact than plants of ‘Golden Pygmy’.
2. Plants of the new *Barberry* are more freely branching than plants of ‘Golden Pygmy’.
3. During the spring, young leaves of plants of the new *Barberry* have more distinct orange red-colored margins than young leaves of plants of ‘Golden Pygmy’.

Plants of the new *Barberry* can be compared to plants of the *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Talago’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 20,602. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Grand Haven, Mich., plants of the new *Barberry* differed from plants of ‘Talago’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Barberry* were not as compact as plants of ‘Talago’.
2. Plants of the new *Barberry* were more rounded than and not as flat as plants of ‘Talago’.

Plants of the new *Barberry* can also be compared to plants of the *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Aurea Nana’, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Grand Haven, Mich., plants of the new *Barberry* differed from plants of ‘Aurea Nana’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Barberry* were more compact than plants of ‘Aurea Nana’.
2. Plants of the new *Barberry* were more freely branching than plants of ‘Aurea Nana’.
3. During the spring, young leaves of plants of the new *Barberry* had more distinct orange red-colored margins than young leaves of plants of ‘Aurea Nana’.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Barberry* plant showing the colors

as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions 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 *Barberry* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet is a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'Kasia' grown in an outdoor nursery.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of a typical plant of 'Kasia'.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe plants grown during the spring and summer in an outdoor nursery in Grand Haven, Mich. and under cultural practices which closely approximate commercial production. Plants used for the photographs and description were five years old. In the following detailed description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Berberis thunbergii* 'Kasia'.

Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—*Barberry thunbergii* 'Golden Pygmy', not patented.

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—Unknown selection of *Barberry thunbergii*, not patented.

Propagation:

*Type.*—By softwood cuttings.

*Time to initiate roots, summer.*—About 70 days at 20° C.

*Time to produce a rooted young plant, summer.*—About one year at 20° C.

*Root description.*—Fine to medium; somewhat fleshy and fibrous; yellow in color.

*Rooting habit.*—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

*Plant form and growth habit.*—Perennial shrub; compact and low mounding plant habit; slow growth rate and vigorous growth habit; freely branching habit with numerous lateral branches developing per plant.

*Plant height.*—About 28 cm.

*Plant diameter (area of spread).*—About 52 cm.

Lateral branch description:

*Length.*—About 4 cm.

*Diameter.*—About 1 mm.

*Internode length.*—About 6 mm.

*Aspect.*—Erect to about 80° from vertical to arching.

*Strength.*—Strong, flexible.

*Texture.*—Smooth, glabrous.

*Color.*—Close to 16C; random spots and at nodes, close to 43A.

*Thorns.*—Quantity: About one thorn develops at each node. Length: About 5 mm. Width: About 1 mm.

Color: Close to 6C; at the apex, close to 46C.

Foliage description:

*Arrangement.*—Alternate or whorled; simple.

*Length.*—About 1.5 cm.

*Width.*—About 7.5 mm.

*Shape.*—Broadly obovate.

*Apex.*—Acute, mucronate.

*Base.*—Attenuate.

*Margin.*—Entire.

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

*Venation pattern.*—Pinnate.

*Color.*—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to 5A; color becoming closer to 151C with development; during the spring, margins are edged with close to 34A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to 151C. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Depending on light level, close to 154A or 5A; venation, close to 144A; plants maintain yellow green to yellow coloration during the autumn. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 154D; venation, close to 144C.

*Petiole.*—Length: About 5 mm. Diameter: About 2 mm.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous.

Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 154A tinged with close to 34A.

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

Garden performance: Plants of the new *Barberry* have been observed to have excellent garden performance and to tolerate rain, wind and temperatures ranging from about -30° C. to about 32° C. In addition, plants of the new *Barberry* are resistant to sun scald.

Pathogen & pest resistance: Plants of the new *Barberry* have been observed to be resistant to Black Stem Rust (*Puccinia graminis*). Plants of the new *Barberry* have not been shown to be resistant to pests and other pathogens common to *Barberry* plants.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Barberry* plant named 'Kasia' as illustrated and described.

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