

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
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(54) **LIGUSTRUM PLANT NAMED ‘NCLX1’**

(50) Latin Name: *Ligustrum*
Varietal Denomination: **NCLX1**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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USPC **Plt./226**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC Plt./226
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

Flowering Shrubs, Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc. Starter Plants
Catalog and Shrub Reference 2013-2014; Aug. 25, 2013, pp. 61
(Golden Ticket).

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

‘NCLX1’ is a new cultivar of privet with bright, yellow-
colored foliage, compact form with dense branching habit,
fragrant white flowers from late-May to June, and low-
fertility with limited fruit set.

3 Drawing Sheets

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Latin name of the genus and species: The Latin name of
the novel plant variety disclosed herein is *Ligustrum*.
‘NCLX1’ is a complex interspecific hybrid, *Ligustrum* [*Li-*
gustrum×*vicaryi* (*ovalifolium*×*vulgare*)] by *Ligustrum*
tschonoskii.

Variety denomination: The inventive variety of *Ligustrum*
disclosed herein has been given the varietal denomination
‘NCLX1’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct vari-
ety of *Ligustrum*, hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name
‘NCLX1’. This new privet was developed through a breed-
ing program at North Carolina State University, Mills River,
N.C. ‘NCLX1’ was selected from a population of seedlings
generated by hybridizing *Ligustrum*×*vicaryi* (unpatented)
with *Ligustrum tschonoskii* ‘Little Thomas’ (unpatented).
The first asexual propagation of ‘NCLX1’ was carried out in
July 2010 by rooting stem cuttings at the North Carolina
State University, Mountain Horticultural Crops Research
Station, Mills River, N.C. and ‘NCLX1’ has been asexually
reproduced repeatedly by vegetative cuttings over a 3-year
period. ‘NCLX1’ roots readily from softwood cuttings
treated with a basal dip of 2,500-5,000 ppm indole butyric
acid (potassium salt) in water. It takes about 4 to 6 weeks for
stem cuttings to initiate roots and a well-rooted plant can be
produce within 12 to 14 weeks. ‘NCLX1’ has been found to
retain its distinctive characteristics through successive
asexual propagations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the most outstanding and distinguish-
ing characteristics of this new cultivar when grown under
standard horticultural practices at North Carolina State Uni-

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versity, Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station,
Mills River, N.C.

1. Bright, yellow-colored foliage.
2. Compact form with dense branching habit.
3. Fragrant white flowers from late-May to June.
4. Low-fertility with limited fruit set.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

This new privet is illustrated by the accompanying pho-
tographs which show the plant’s form, foliage and inflores-
cences. The colors shown are as true as can be reasonably
obtained by conventional photographic procedures. 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 privet.

FIG. 1 shows the overall compact habit of a container-
grown plant of ‘NCLX1’ that is two years old.

FIG. 2 shows the yellow foliage color of a four-year old
plant of ‘NCLX1’.

FIG. 3 shows the white flowers of ‘NCLX1’ and the
compactness of the inflorescence on a two-year old plant.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following detailed description sets forth the distinc-
tive characteristics of ‘NCLX1’. The detailed description
was taken on 6-year-old plants growing in Mills River, N.C.
in May 2014. All colors cited herein refer to The Royal
Horticultural Society Colour Chart (The Royal Horticultural
Society (R.H.S.), London, 2001 Edition). Where specific
dimensions, sizes, colors, and other characteristics are given,
it is to be understood that such characteristics are approxi-
mations or averages set forth as accurately as practicable.
Classification:

Botanical name.—*Ligustrum* ‘NCLX1’.

Common name.—Privet.

Parentage: *Ligustrum xvicaryi*×*Ligustrum tschonoskii* ‘Little Thomas’.

Plant description:

Growth habit.—Upright to rounded with compact, dense branching habit.

Height.—1.22-1.83 m at maturity.

Width.—1.22-1.83 m at maturity.

Stem:

Immature stem texture.—Glabrous.

Immature stem color.—Yellow-green (144A) flushed with purple (N77C).

Mature stem texture.—Glabrous, lenticelled.

Mature stem color.—Greyed-green (197A).

Lateral branch length.—Average 60 cm, range 30 to 100 cm.

Lateral branch number.—50-70 per plant on a three-year old plant.

Lateral branch strength.—Strong.

Lateral branch texture.—Glabrous with sparse lenticels.

Lateral branch color.—RHS Grey-green, 197A.

Internode length.—Average 2 cm, range 1 to 5 cm.

Leaves:

Persistence.—Deciduous.

Arrangement.—Opposite, simple.

Length.—Average 3.2 cm, range 1.8 to 4.2 cm.

Width.—Average 1.8 cm, range 1 to 2.4 cm.

Shape.—Elliptical to ovate.

Apex.—Acute.

Base.—Rounded.

Venation pattern.—Pinnate.

Margin.—Entire.

Emerging leaves.—Color: Upper and lower: Yellow-green (144A to N144A). Texture: Upper and lower leaves are glabrous.

Mature leaves during growing season.—Color: Upper: Yellow-green (N144A). Lower: Yellow-green (145A). Venation: Upper: Yellow-green (N144A). Lower: Yellow-green (N145). Texture: Upper and lower leaves are glabrous.

Petiole.—Length: Average 2.5 mm, range 1.0 to 3.5 mm. Width: Average 0.7 mm, range 0.6 to 0.9 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: Yellow-green (N144A).

Inflorescence:

Description.—Terminal panicle of racemes with multiple flowers.

Number of flowers per inflorescence.—30-50.

Flowering season.—Late May to June in Mills River, N.C.

Flower longevity.—10-14 days.

Fragrance.—Light, Sweet.

Inflorescence height.—Average 4 cm, range 2-6 cm.

Inflorescence diameter.—Average 2.5 cm, range 2-3 cm.

Flower diameter.—Average 5.0 mm, range 4.0-6.0 mm.

Flower depth.—Average 6.0 mm, range 5.0-7.0 mm.

Flower buds.—Length: Less than 8.0 mm. Diameter: Less than 3.0 mm. Shape: Oblong. Color: White (155B).

Petals.—Quantity: Four per flower. Length: About 3.0 mm. Width: About 2.0 mm. Shape: Oblong, recurved. Apex: Acute. Base: Fused. Texture: Glabrous. Margin: Entire. Color: White (155B).

Sepals.—Quantity: Four per flower. Length: About 3.0 mm. Width: About 1.5 mm. Apex: Acute. Base: Fused. Texture: Glabrous. Color: Yellow-green (145A). Margin: Entire.

Peduncle.—Length: About 5.0 mm. Width: About 2.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: Green (143C).

Pedicels.—Length: About 1.5 mm. Width: About 1.0 mm. Texture: Glabrous. Color: Green (143C).

Fruit:

Description.—Berry-like drupe.

Frequency.—Infrequent, very limited fruit set compared to parental taxa.

Length.—About 7.0 mm. Width: About 5.0 mm. Shape: Oblong. Texture: Glabrous.

Color.—Black (202A).

Seed: Rarely formed; this description is based on the few seeds that have been observed to date.

Length.—0.7 cm.

Width.—0.4 cm.

Shape.—Oval.

Color.—Balk (RHS 203B).

Roots: Dense with fine to medium texture.

Disease and insect resistance: No significant disease or insect pests have been observed to date.

Cold hardiness: At least USDA zone 6b; testing has not been completed in colder zones.

COMPARISON WITH PARENTAL SPECIES

Table 1 shows key distinguishing characteristics between ‘NCLX1’ and its parental taxa. ‘NCLX1’ is distinguished from *Ligustrum xvicaryi* in that ‘NCLX1’ has more compact inflorescences, a more compact habit, and has very limited fruit production. ‘NCLX1’ is distinguished from *Ligustrum tschonoskii* ‘Little Thomas’ by having bright yellow mature leaf color and later flowering time.

TABLE 1

Comparison to parental taxa.			
Trait	Taxa		
	<i>Ligustrum</i> × <i>vicaryi</i>	<i>Ligustrum tschnoskii</i> ‘Little Thomas’	<i>Ligustrum</i> ‘NCLX1’
Growth habit	Vase-shaped, somewhat rangy shrub	Rounded, spreading shrub	Upright, compact shrub
Mature size	10-12' tall × 8-10' wide	4-6' tall × 6-8' wide	4-6' tall × 4-6' wide
Emerging foliage color	Upper: Yellow-green (N144A) Lower: Yellow-green (146D)	Upper and Lower: Yellow-green (144A)	Upper and Lower: Yellow-green (144A to N144A)
Mature foliage color	Upper and lower: Yellow-green (151A)	Upper: Green (138A) Lower: Yellow-green (146B)	Upper: Yellow-green (N144A) Lower: Yellow-green (145A)
Flowering season	Early to mid-June	Mid- to late May	Early to mid-June
Number of flowers per inflorescence	About 100, ranges from 50 to 180	About 45, ranges from 25 to 90	About 35, ranges from 10 to 80
Inflorescence height	About 6 cm, ranges from 4 to 7 cm	About 4 cm, ranges from 2 to 6 cm	About 4 cm, ranges from 2 to 6 cm
Fragrance	Light, sweet fragrance	Light, acrid fragrance	Light, sweet fragrance
Seed production	Prolific	Prolific	Infrequent

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct privet plant named ‘NCLX1’ substantially as illustrated and described herein.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

