

(12) **United States Plant Patent**
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(54) **EVERGREEN DOGWOOD PLANT NAMED**
‘NCCE1’

(50) Latin Name: *Cornus elliptica*
Varietal Denomination: **NCCE1**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

‘NCCE1’ is a new cultivar of evergreen dogwood with an
upright, pyramidal habit, dense branching, large showy
white bracts, and greyed-purple-colored winter foliage.

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 *Cornus elliptica*.

Variety denomination: The inventive variety of an open-
pollinated *Cornus elliptica* (formerly *C. angustata*) ‘Elsbry’
(U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,537) disclosed herein has been given
the varietal denomination ‘NCCE1’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct dog-
wood cultivar hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name
‘NCCE1’. This new dogwood was developed through a
breeding program in Mills River, N.C. ‘NCCE1’ was
selected from a population of seedlings grown from an
open-pollinated *Cornus elliptica* ‘Elsbry’, NCSU 2006-030
(U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,537). The first asexual propagation
of ‘NCCE1’ was carried out in July 2010 by rooting stem
cuttings in Mills River, N.C. and has been asexually repro-
duced repeatedly by vegetative cuttings and micropropaga-
tion from axillary shoots over a 5-year period. ‘NCCE1’
roots readily from softwood cuttings treated with a basal dip
of 4,000-5,000 ppm indole butyric acid (potassium salt) in
water. ‘NCCE1’ has been found to retain its distinctive
characteristics through successive asexual propagations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following are the unique combination of character-
istics of this new dogwood cultivar when grown under
standard horticultural practices in Mills River, N.C.

1. Narrow, upright habit with dense branching.
2. Large, ivory-colored bracts.

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3. Evergreen with glossy, greyed-purple-colored, winter
foliage.
4. Cold hardy to USDA Zone 6B.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

This new dogwood is illustrated by the accompanying
photographs which show the plant’s form, foliage and
inflorescences. The colors shown are as true as can be
reasonably obtained by conventional photographic proce-
dures. 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 dogwood.

FIG. 1 is a photograph showing upright habit and dense
branching of ‘NCCE1’ taken in July 2012 on a four-year-old,
field-grown tree.

FIG. 2 is a photograph of the inflorescences of ‘NCCE1’
taken in June 2013 on a four-year-old, container-grown tree.

FIG. 3 is a photograph of ‘NCCE1’ with winter-colored
foliage taken in January 2011 on a three-year-old, field-
grown tree.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following is a detailed description of the botanical
characteristics of the new and distinct dogwood plant cul-
tivar known by the denomination ‘NCCE1’. The detailed
description was taken on a six-year-old field-grown plant in
Mills River, N.C. in 2014. All colors cited herein refer to The
Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (The Royal Hor-
ticultural 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
approximations or averages set forth as accurately as prac-
ticable.

Technical Description of the Variety

Classification:

Botanical name.—*Cornus elliptica* ‘NCCE1’.
Common name.—Evergreen dogwood.

Parentage: Seedling grown from an open-pollinated *Cornus elliptica* ‘Elsbry’ (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 14,537).

Plant description:

Growth habit.—Narrow, pyramidal.
Height.—4 m after 6 years.
Width.—1-1.3 m at base after 6 years.

Leaves:

Type.—Simple.
Persistence.—Evergreen to 10° C.
Arrangement.—Opposite.
Shape.—Elliptical to lanceolate.
Apex.—Acuminate.
Base.—Cuneate.
Vein number.—4-5 vein pairs.
Venation.—Pinnate, arcuate.
Vein color in summer.—Upper: Yellow-green (RHS 145A). Lower: Yellow-green (RHS 145D).
Vein texture.—Pubescent.
Margins.—Entire.
Emerging leaves.—Color: Upper: Greyed-green (RHS 197B) with a blush of Grayish-red (RHS 176A) and a Grayish-red margin (RHS 176A). Lower: Yellow-green (RHS 148D). Texture: Upper: Pubescent, glossy. Lower: Pubescent, dull.
Mature leaves during growing season.—Color: Upper: Green (RHS 139A). Lower: Greyed-green (RHS 191B). Texture: Upper: Fine pubescence, glossy. Lower: Fine pubescence, dull. Length of lamina: Avg. 10 cm (range 7.5 to 12 cm). Width: Avg. 4 cm (range 2.5 to 4.5 cm).
Fall and winter foliage color.—After frost, foliage transitions from green (RHS 139A) to greyed-purple (RHS 183A).
Leaf attachment.—Petiolate.
Petiole.—Length: Avg. 10 mm (range 5 to 15 mm). Diameter: Avg. 1 mm (range 1 to 1.5 mm). Color: Yellow-green (RHS 145B). Texture: Pubescent.
Vegetative bud.—Shape: Lanceolate, acuminate. Length: Avg. 4 mm (range 3 to 6 mm). Texture: Pubescent. Color: Yellow-green (RHS 148C).

Inflorescence:

Description.—Rounded umbel of inconspicuous flowers subtended by showy bracts.
Number of true flowers per inflorescence.—50-100.
Flowering season.—June to early July, bracts persist through July in Mills River, N.C.
Fragrance.—None.
Flower bud.—Position: Terminal. Shape: Rounded. Texture: Pubescent. Color: Yellow-green (RHS 148C).
Inflorescence diameter.—Avg. 11 cm (10 to 12 cm).
True flowers.—Number per umbel: 50-100. Diameter: About 3 mm. Sepal color: Yellow-green (RHS 148C). Petal color: Yellow-green (RHS 148C). Number of pistils: 1. Number of stamens: 4.
Perianth.—Diameter at anthesis: Avg. 11 cm (9 to 11.5 cm). Height at anthesis: Avg. 1 cm (0.8 to 1.1 cm).
Peduncle.—Length: Avg. 7 cm (6 to 8 cm). Width: Avg. 1.15 mm (1 to 1.3 mm). Color: Yellow-Green (RHS 145A). Texture: glabrous to puberulent.

Bracts (at anthesis).—Number: 4. Shape: Elliptical. Apex: Acuminate. Length: Avg. 5.3 cm (4.3 to 6.3 cm). Width: Avg. 3.2 cm (2.4 to 3.4 cm). Surface texture: Glabrous, both sides. Color: White (RHS 155A), both upper and lower surfaces.

Fruit:

Description.—Drupe born on a pendulous stalk (Avg. 5 cm long), maturing in early fall.
Shape.—Globose.
Diameter.—Avg. 1.8 cm (range 1.5 to 2 cm).
Color at maturity.—Greyed-red (RHS 179A).

Seed:

Shape.—Elliptical.
Length.—Avg. 0.7 cm (range 0.5 to 0.8 cm).
Width.—Avg. 0.5 cm (range 0.3 to 0.6 cm).
Color.—Greyed-orange (RHS 165C).

Shoot and stem:

Shoot length.—Avg. 9 cm (range 4 to 15 cm).
Shoot diameter.—Avg. 3 cm (2 to 4 cm).
Internode length.—Avg. 3 cm (2 to 4 cm).
Immature shoot texture (current year).—Pubescent.
Immature shoot color (current year).—Grey-brown (RHS N199B).
Mature stem texture (from prior year).—Heavily lenticelled.
Mature stem color (from prior year).—Grey-brown (RHS N199B).
Trunk diameter.—8 cm at 30 cm above the soil level.
Bark texture.—Corky, lenticelled.
Bark color.—Grey-brown (RHS N199B).

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 COMMERCIAL CULTIVARS

Table 1 shows distinguishing characteristics between ‘NCCE1’ and ‘Elsbry’, parent of ‘NCCE1’, and ‘First Choice’. ‘NCCE1’ is distinguished from ‘Elsbry’ and ‘First Choice’ in that ‘NCCE1’ has a narrow, pyramidal habit, shorter branch internodes, and larger inflorescences. ‘NCCE1’ also has greyed-purple winter foliage color, whereas *C. elliptica* ‘Elsbry’ and ‘First Choice’ have a greener winter foliage color.

TABLE 1

Comparison to commercial cultivars.			
Trait	Taxa		
	<i>Cornus</i> ‘NCCE1’	<i>Cornus</i> ‘Elsbry’	<i>Cornus</i> ‘First Choice’
Plant height	4 m	4 m	4 m
Plant width	1-1.3 m	4 m	4 m
Plant habit	Narrow, pyramidal	Rounded, spreading	Rounded, spreading
Branch internode length	Avg. 3 cm	Avg. 10.3 cm	Avg. 5.5
Inflorescence diameter	Avg. 11 cm	Avg. 6.5 cm	Avg. 6.5 cm
Winter foliage color:	Greyed-purple RHS 183A	Green RHS 137B	Green RHS 137B
Upper surface		with Greyed-purple margin RHS 183A	

What is claimed is:

1. A new and distinct dogwood plant named 'NCCE1'
substantially as illustrated and described herein.

* * * * *

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

