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United States Plant Patent
Wood

(10)

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(54) **TAXUS PLANT NAMED ‘SMNTHDPF’**

(50) Latin Name: *Taxus x media*
Varietal Denomination: **SMNTHDPF**

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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.: **16/602,661**

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A01H 7/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./215**
CPC **A01H 7/00** (2013.01)

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Taxus* plant named ‘SMNTHDPF’, characterized by its upright and columnar plant form; freely branching habit requiring minimal pruning; dense and bushy appearance; bright green-colored leaves that maintain color throughout the seasons; and good landscape performance and hardiness.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical designation: *Taxus x media*.
Cultivar denomination: ‘SMNTHDPF’.

CROSS-REFERENCED IN CLOSELY-RELATED APPLICATIONS

Title: *Taxus* Plant Named ‘SMNTHDB’
Applicant: Timothy D. Wood
Filed: Concurrently with this application, having application Ser. No. 16/602,660

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Taxus* plant, botanically known as *Taxus x media*, and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘SMNTHDPF’.

The new *Taxus* 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 create new *Taxus* plants with unique and attractive plant forms.

The new *Taxus* plant originated from an open-pollination in 2006 in Grand Haven, Mich. of *Taxus x media* ‘Hicksii’, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selection of *Taxus x media* as the male, or pollen, parent. The new *Taxus* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a single plant from within the progeny of the stated open-pollination in a controlled environment in Grand Haven, Mich. in 2011.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Taxus* plant by softwood stem cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Grand Haven, Mich. since 2011 has shown that the unique features of this new *Taxus* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Taxus* have not been observed under all possible combinations of environmental conditions and cul-

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tural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment 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 ‘SMNTHDPF’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘SMNTHDPF’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Taxus* plant:

1. Upright and columnar plant form.
2. Freely branching habit requiring minimal pruning; dense and bushy appearance.
3. Bright green-colored leaves that maintain color throughout the seasons.
4. Good landscape performance and hardiness.

Plants of the new *Taxus* can be compared to plants of the female parent, ‘Hicksii’, in plant shape as plants of the new *Taxus* are narrower and more columnar than plants of ‘Hicksii’. In addition, plants of the new *Taxus* have darker green-colored leaves than plants of ‘Hicksii’.

Plants of the new *Taxus* can be compared to plants of *Taxus x media* ‘SMNTHDC’, disclosed in U.S. Plant patent application Ser. No. 16/350,983, U.S. Plant Pat. No. 31,795. Plants of the new *Taxus* differ primarily from plants of ‘SMNTHDC’ in plant shape as plants of the new *Taxus* are narrower than and not as broad as plants of ‘SMNTHDC’. In addition, plants of the new *Taxus* have darker green-colored leaves than plants of ‘SMNTHDC’.

Plants of the new *Taxus* can also be compared to plants of *Taxus x media* ‘SMNTHDB’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Patent application filed concurrently, having application Ser. No. 16/602,660, in plant shape as overall shape of plants of the new *Taxus* is columnar whereas overall shape of plants of ‘SMNTHDB’ is ball-shaped.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Taxus* 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 *Taxus* plant.

The photograph on the first sheet (FIG. 1 of 2) is a side perspective view of typical plants of 'SMNTHDPF' grown in containers in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse environment in Grand Haven, Mich.; plants used in the photograph were two years old.

The photograph on the second sheet (FIG. 2 of 2) is a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'SMNTHDPF' grown in an outdoor nursery in Grand Haven, Mich.; the plant used for the photograph was five years old.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used for the following observations and measurements were grown during the summer in one-gallon containers in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse in Grand Haven, Mich. Plants were grown under cultural practices typical of commercial *Taxus* plant production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures ranged from 18° C. to 27° C. and night temperatures ranged from 5° C. to 10° C. Plants were two years old when the description was taken. In the following description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2015 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Taxus x media* 'SMNTHDPF'.

Parentage:

Female, or seed, parent.—*Taxus x media* 'Hicksii', not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent.—Unknown selection of *Taxus x media*, not patented.

Propagation:

Type.—By softwood stem cuttings.

Time to initiate roots.—About one month at temperatures about 10° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—About three months at temperatures about 10° C.

Root description.—Thick, fibrous; typically white in color, actual color of the roots is dependent on

substrate composition, water quality, fertilizer type and formulation, substrate temperature and physiological age of roots.

Rooting habit.—Freely branching; dense.

Plant description:

Plant form and growth habit.—Perennial evergreen shrub; relatively compact, upright and columnar plant form; moderately vigorous growth habit and moderate growth rate.

Branching habit.—Freely branching habit requiring minimal pruning; dense and bushy appearance; about ten lateral branches developing per plant.

Plant height.—About 55 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 18 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 37 cm. Diameter: About 4 mm. Internode length: About 1 cm. Strength: Strong, flexible. Aspect: Erect to about 15° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color, developing: Close to 143A. Color, mature: Close to 174B.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 2.5 cm. Width: About 3 mm. Shape: Acicular. Apex: Cuspidate. Base: Oblique. Margin: Entire. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Venation pattern: Parallel. Color: Developing leaves, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 144C. Fully expanded leaves, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 143A; venation, close to 143A; leaf color is maintained throughout the seasons. Petioles: Length: About 1 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous. Color, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 143A.

Flower description.—To date, flower development has not been observed on plants of the new *Taxus*.

Pathogen & pest resistance: To date, plants of the new *Taxus* have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens or pests common to *Taxus* plants.

Landscape performance: Plants of the new *Taxus* have been observed to have good landscape performance and to be tolerant temperatures ranging from about -32° C. to about 36° C.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct *Taxus* plant named 'SMNTHDPF' as illustrated and described.

* * * * *

FIG. 1

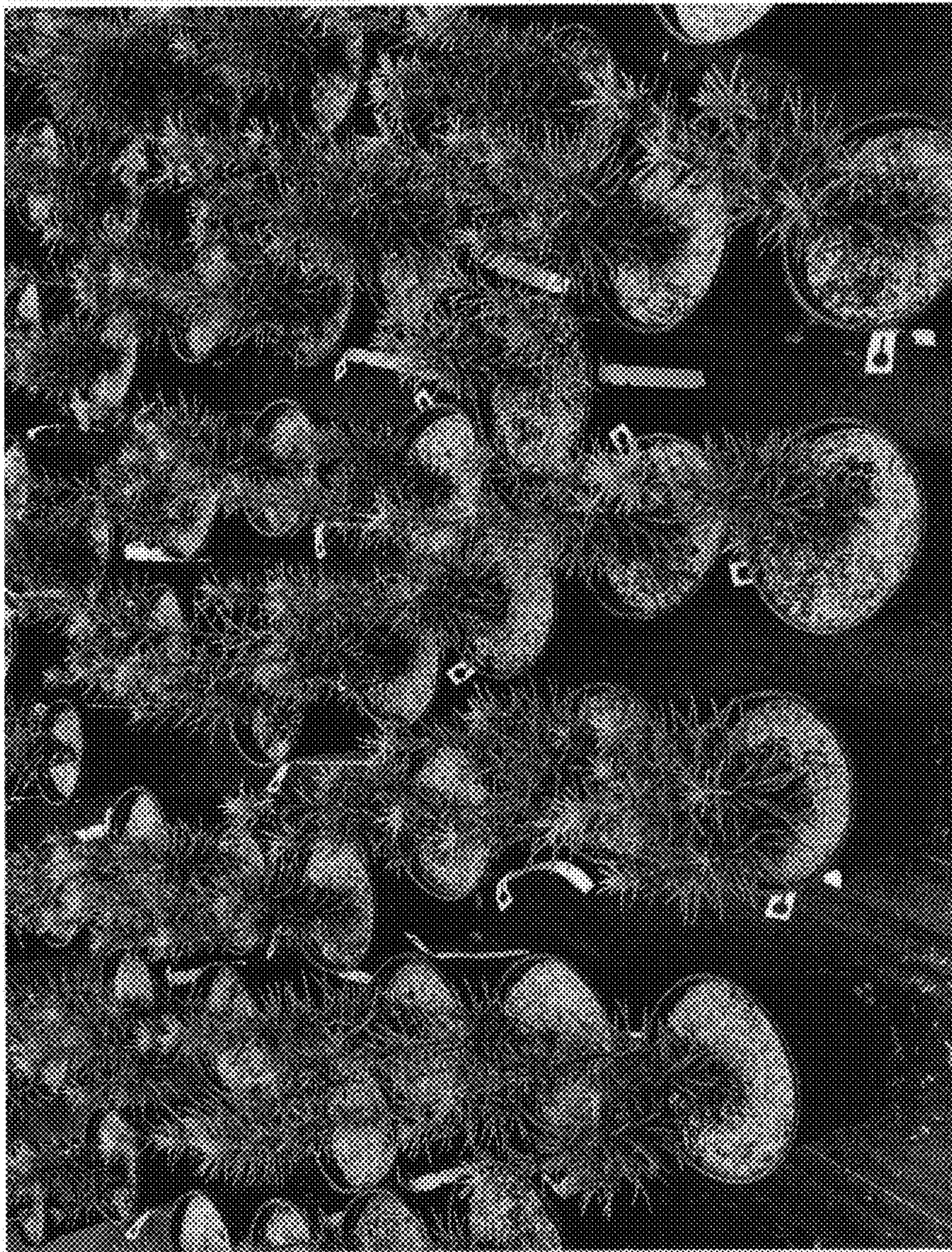


FIG. 2

