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

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(54) **TAXUS PLANT NAMED ‘SMNTHDB’**

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

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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(21) Appl. No.: **16/602,660**

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A01H 7/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./215**

(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
‘SMNTHDB’, characterized by its compact, overall ball-
shaped 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

1

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

**CROSS-REFERENCED IN CLOSELY-RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

Title: *Taxus* Plant Named ‘SMNTHDPF’

Applicant: Timothy D. Wood

Filed: Concurrently with this application (U.S. Plant
patent application Ser. No. 16/602,661)

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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

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-
tural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with

2

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
‘SMNTHDB’. These characteristics in combination distin-
guish ‘SMNTHDB’ as a new and distinct cultivar of *Taxus*
plant:

1. Compact, overall ball-shaped 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 size as plants of the new
Taxus are more compact than plants of ‘Hicksii’.

Plants of the new *Taxus* can be compared to plants of
Taxus x media ‘SMNTHDC’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat.
No. 31,795. Plants of the new *Taxus* differ primarily from
plants of ‘SMNTHDC’ in the following characteristics:

1. Overall shape of plants of the new *Taxus* is ball-shaped
whereas overall shape of plants of ‘SMNTHDC’ is
columnar.
2. Leaves of plants of the new *Taxus* are bright green in
color whereas leaves of plants of ‘SMNTHDC’ are
darker green in color.

Plants of the new *Taxus* can also be compared to plants of
Taxus x media ‘SMNTHDPF’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Patent
application filed concurrently, in plant shape as overall shape
of plants of the new *Taxus* is ball-shaped whereas overall
shape of plants of ‘SMNTHDPF’ is columnar.

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 a typical plant of 'SMNTHDB' grown in a container in a polyethylene-covered greenhouse environment in Grand Haven, Mich.

The photograph on the second sheet (FIG. 2 of 2) is a side perspective view of a typical plant of 'SMNTHDB' grown in an outdoor nursery in Grand Haven, Mich. Plants used for the photographs were three years old.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

Plants used for the following observations and measurements were grown during the summer in five-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* 'SMNTHDB'.

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 18° C. to 27° C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting.—About three months at temperatures about 18° C. to 27° 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 to outwardly spreading and mounding, overall ball-shaped plant form; moderately vigorous growth habit and moderate growth rate.

Branching habit.—Freely branching habit requiring minimal pruning; dense and bushy appearance; about 20 to 50 lateral branches developing per plant.

Plant height.—About 47 cm.

Plant diameter.—About 59 cm.

Lateral branch description.—Length: About 31 cm. Diameter: About 5 mm. Internode length: About 5 mm. Strength: Strong, flexible. Aspect: About 15° to 60° from vertical. Texture: Smooth, glabrous. Color, developing: Close to 143A. Color, mature: Close to 174B.

Leaf description.—Arrangement: Alternate, simple. Length: About 3 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 surface: Close to 139A; venation, close to 139A; leaf color is maintained throughout the seasons. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: 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 144B.

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 'SMNTHDB' as illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2

