



US00PP32421P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP32,421 P2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 3, 2020**

(54) **BUXUS PLANT NAMED ‘SB 300’**

(50) Latin Name: *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*
Varietal Denomination: **SB 300**

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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.: **16/602,862**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 12, 2019**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01H 5/00 (2018.01)
A01H 6/00 (2018.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **Plt./226**

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

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Buxus*, ‘SB 300’, that is characterized by
its tight, upright and very compact plant habit, its foliage that
are dark green in color, and its new growth that is new
growth that is fresh and vigorous.

2 Drawing Sheets

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Botanical classification: *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*.
Variety denomination: ‘SB 300’.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar
of *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* and will be referred to
hereafter by its cultivar name, ‘SB 300’. ‘SB 300’ is a new
cultivar of boxwood grown for use as an ornamental land-
scape plant.

The Inventor discovered the new cultivar in summer of
2007 as a new and unique plant in a container block of *Buxus*
microphylla ‘Wintergreen’ (not patented) in his nursery in
Piney River, Va. As the containers had been planted with
stem cuttings of ‘Wintergreen’, it is presumed that the new
cultivar arose as a branch mutation of ‘Wintergreen’.

Asexual propagation of the new cultivar was first accom-
plished by the Inventor by stem cuttings in summer of 2008
in Piney River, Va. Asexual propagation of the new cultivar
by stem cuttings has determined that the characteristics are
stable and are reproduced true to type in successive genera-
tions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and
represent the characteristics of the new cultivar. These
attributes in combination distinguish ‘SB 300’ as a unique
cultivar of *Buxus*.

1. ‘SB 300’ exhibits a tight, upright and very compact
plant habit.
2. ‘SB 300’ exhibits foliage that are dark green in color.
3. ‘SB 300’ exhibits new growth that is fresh and vigor-
ous.

The parent plant of ‘SB 300’, ‘Wintergreen’, differs from
‘SB 300’ in having new growth that is less fresh and
vigorous, a more open, spreading and loose growth habit,
and leaves that are paler green in color. ‘SB 300’ can be most
closely compared to *Buxus microphylla* cultivars ‘Winter-

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gem’ (not patented) and ‘Jim Stauffer’ (not patented). ‘Win-
tergem’ is similar to ‘SB 300’ in leaf size and shape and cold
hardiness. ‘Wintergem’ differs from ‘SB 300’ in having a
less compact, less upright plant habit, foliage that is less
dense, and foliage that is lighter green in color. ‘Jim
Stauffer’ is similar to ‘SB 300’ in overall growth rate and
cold hardiness. ‘Jim Stauffer’ differs from ‘SB 300’ in
having a less tight growth habit, a less upright plant habit
and foliage that is lighter green in color.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the
overall appearance and distinct characteristics of the new
Buxus. The photographs were taken of two-year-old plants
as grown in a cold frame (covered in plastic in winter) at a
nursery in Piney River, Va. The photographs in FIG. 1 and
FIG. 2 were taken of a plant 5 years in age.

The photograph in FIG. 1 provides a side view of ‘SB
300’.

The photograph in FIG. 2 provides a side view of the
compact plant habit of ‘SB 300’ taken of a plant 6 years in
age.

The photograph in FIG. 3 provides a close-up view of the
new foliage growth of ‘SB 300’.

The colors in the photographs are as close as possible with
the photographic and printing technology utilized and the
color values cited in the detailed botanical description
accurately describe the colors of the new *Buxus*.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following is a description of two-year-old plants of
the new cultivar as grown in a cold frame (covered in plastic
in winter) in one-gallon containers at a nursery in Piney
River, Va. The phenotype of the new cultivar may vary with
variations in environmental, climatic, and cultural condi-
tions, as it has not been tested under all possible environ-
mental conditions. The color determination is in accordance

with The 2015 Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

General description:

Plant type.—Evergreen shrub.

Plant habit.—Compact, upright.

Height and spread.—Reaches an average of 17 cm in width and 25 cm in height as grown in a one-gallon container, 5-year-old plant in the landscape reaches an average of 45 cm in length and spread.

Hardiness.—At least in U.S.D.A. Zones 5 to 8.

Diseases resistance.—Very good tolerance to boxwood blight (*Cylindrocladium buxicola*) and good resistance to *Phytophthora* sp.

Root description.—Fibrous, 161C in color.

Propagation.—Stem cuttings.

Root development.—Cuttings take 6 weeks to initiate rooting, 1 year to fill a 4-quart container.

Growth rate.—Vigorous, 10 to 15 cm per year.

Branch description:

Branch shape.—Quadrangular.

Branch color.—Young stems; 144A and 149A, mature stem and bark; a blend of 158A and 197A.

Branch size.—Main branches; average of 6 cm in length and 3 cm in diameter, lateral branches emerging from main stems; average of 17 cm in length and 2 mm in diameter, tertiary branches emerging from the lateral branches; average of 9 cm in length and 2 mm in diameter.

Stem strength.—Strong.

Stem surface.—Young stems; glabrous and smooth, mature and older stems; a blend of glabrous and rugose bark, dull.

Branch number.—An average of 4 main branches, average number of branches per main stem; an

average of 7 lateral branches emerging from main stems and an average of 4 tertiary branches emerging from the lateral branches.

Branching habit.—Stems arise from base, branches held in multiple tight angles and upright.

Foliage description:

Leaf shape.—Orbicular to ovate.

Leaf division.—Simple.

Leaf base.—Rounded.

Leaf apex.—Retuse.

Leaf fragrance.—Slightly pungent.

Leaf venation.—Pinnate, color matches leaf surface.

Leaf margins.—Entire.

Leaf arrangement.—Opposite.

Leaf attachment.—Petiolate.

Internode length.—Average of 1 cm.

Leaf surface.—Glabrous and shiny on both surfaces.

Leaf texture.—Slightly thick, tough and waxy.

Leaf size.—Up to an average of 2 cm in length and 1.7 cm in width.

Leaf quantity.—Average of 30 on a branch 15 cm in length.

Leaf color.—Young leaves; upper and lower surface 144A, mature leaves; upper surface NN137A, lower surface 144A.

Petioles.—Average of 1 mm in length and 0.5 mm in width, both sides are 144B in color and glabrous.

Inflorescence description: No flowers have been observed, in general plants of *Buxus microphylla* typically don't flower unless under stress or over 10 years in age.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Buxus* plant named 'SB 300' as herein illustrated and described.

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FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3