



US00PP20008P2

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US PP20,008 P2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 19, 2009**

(54) **CORNUS PLANT NAMED ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **Plt./220**

(50) Latin Name: *Cornus kousa ssp. chinensis*  
Varietal Denomination: **Tri-Splendor**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... Plt./220  
See application file for complete search history.

(76) Inventor: **Crispin Silva**, 31997 S. One Way  
Mololla, Molalla, OR (US) 97036

*Primary Examiner*—Kent L Bell

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new cultivar of *Cornus* plant named ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’  
that is characterized by variegated spring foliage and varie-  
gated flowers. The foliage color changes to solid green in the  
summer and then to reddish-purple in the fall. In combina-  
tion these traits set ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ apart from all other  
existing varieties of *Cornus* known to the inventor.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/074,117**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 3, 2008**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A01H 5/00** (2006.01)

**4 Drawing Sheets**

**1**

**2**

Genus: *Cornus*.  
Species: *kousa ssp. chinensis*.  
Denomination: TRI-SPLENDOR.

reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual  
propagation.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar  
of *Cornus* or Chinese dogwood that is grown for use as a  
landscape tree. It is known botanically as *Cornus kousa ssp.*  
*chinensis* and will be referred to hereinafter by the cultivar  
name ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
represent the characteristics of the new *Cornus* cultivar  
‘TRI-SPLENDOR’. These traits in combination distinguish  
‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ from all other varieties of *Cornus* known  
to the inventor. ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ has not been tested under  
all possible conditions and phenotypic differences may be  
observed with variations in environmental, climatic and cul-  
tural conditions, without however any change in genotype.

‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ arose and was selected by the inventor  
at the inventor’s nursery in Molalla, Oreg., as a chance seed-  
ling in a crop of *Cornus kousa ssp. chinensis* (species,  
unpatented) in 2000.

1. *Cornus* ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ exhibits vigorous upright  
growth.
2. *Cornus* ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ foliage are variegated  
green, yellow and cream in the spring.
3. *Cornus* ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ foliage is bright green in  
the summer.
4. *Cornus* ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ foliage is reddish-purple in  
the fall.
5. *Cornus* ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ blooms in late spring.
6. The flowers of *Cornus* ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ are varie-  
gated green and cream.
7. *Cornus* ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ is hardy to USDA Hardi-  
ness Zone 6.

The new *Cornus* variety ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’ is an upright  
tree characterized by variegated foliage which vary in the  
spring from lime green to yellow to cream and variegated  
green and cream colored flowers.

The closest known comparison plant known to the breeder  
is the parent plant which has solid green leaves and cream  
colored flowers. The foliage and flowers of ‘TRI-  
SPLENDOR’ are variegated and change through the year. In  
the spring there are three distinct colors on the leaves: the  
margins are yellow by the base, creamy white towards the  
apex and the centers are green. By the end of the summer the  
leaves have turned all green, then in the fall become a pink-  
reddish hue before dropping. The late spring blooming flow-  
ers have bracts which are variegated cream and green. Other  
cultivars that are close in being variegated *Cornus kousa ssp.*  
*chinensis* are Samaritan ‘Samzam’ and ‘Snow Flake’. ‘TRI-  
SPLENDOR’ has broader leaves and more pronounced var-  
iegation than ‘Samzam’ and variegated bracts instead of the  
solid white flowers of ‘Snow Flake’.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar was first accom-  
plished by the inventor in 2002 in a cultivated area of  
Molalla, Oreg. The method of asexual propagation used was  
side veneer grafting in which the scion is inserted into a slit  
on the side of the rootstock. Since that time the characteris-  
tics of the new cultivar have been determined stable and are

The accompanying color drawings illustrate the overall  
appearance of the new *Cornus* variety ‘TRI-SPLENDOR’  
showing colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain  
in colored reproductions of this type. The specimen in the  
drawings is a 5 year old tree grown out of doors in Mollala,  
Oreg. Colors in the drawings may differ from the color val-  
ues cited in the detailed botanical description, which accu-  
rately describe the actual colors of the new variety ‘TRI-  
SPLENDOR’.

FIG. 1 shows the variegated spring foliage of ‘TRI-  
SPLENDOR’.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of the variegated flower of 'TRI-SPLENDOR'.

FIG. 3 shows the fall foliage color of 'TRI-SPLENDOR'.

FIG. 4 shows the spring foliage color of 'TRI-SPLENDOR'.

All drawings were made using conventional techniques and although colors may appear different from actual colors due to light reflectance they are as accurate as possible by conventional photography.

#### BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following is a detailed description of the new cultivar 'TRI-SPLENDOR'. Data was collected from a 5 year old plant grown in out of doors in Mollala, Oreg. The color determinations are in accordance with the 1966 edition of The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, except where general color terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used. No chemicals were used to treat the plants.

Botanical classification: *Cornus*.

Species: *kousa ssp. chinensis*.

Common name: Chinese dogwood.

Commercial classification: Deciduous flowering tree.

Use: Landscape plant.

Parentage: *Cornus kousa ssp. chinensis*.

Plant description:

*Plant habit*.—Upright.

*Plant dimensions (1 year)*.—1 m in height and 1 cm in diameter.

*Plant dimensions (5 years)*.—3.3 m in height and 2 m in width.

*Plant hardiness*.—USDA Zone 5–9.

*Type*.—Deciduous flowering tree.

*Propagation*.—Grafting, budding, or with semi-hardwood cuttings.

*Growth rate*.—Vigorous—faster than other cultivars in the species.

*Cultural requirements*.—Moist soil with good drainage.

*Diseases and pests*.—None known to the inventor.

Branching habit: Ascending.

Crotch angle: 35–40 degrees away from the vertical.

Stem:

*Color*.—197C.

*Main trunk at 10 cm height*.—16.5 cm.

*Surface*.—Pubescent.

*Lenticels*.—Sparse, approximately 3 cm–5 cm apart.

*Lenticel size on 3 year old branch*.—1 mm in length by 0.5 mm in width.

*Lenticel color*.—197C or darker.

Foliage:

*Arrangement*.—Opposite.

*Leaves*.—Division: Simple. Shape: Ovate to elliptic.

Dimensions: 10 cm to 14.5 cm in length and 4.5 cm

to 7.5 cm in width. Tip: Acuminate. Base: Acute.

Venation pattern: Pinnate. Vein color: As adjacent

lamina. Margin: Undulate. Surface (both surfaces):

Slightly rough due to the presence of many fine whit-

ish hairs. Immature leaf color (adaxial): Outer margin

151B; leaf center 144A. Immature leaf color

(abaxial): Outer margin 151A; leaf center 146B.

Mature leaf color (adaxial): Outer margin 1D; leaf

center 137B. Mature leaf color (abaxial): Outer margin

2D; leaf center 138C. Fall leaf color: 51A and

51B and 145B seen on individual leaves. Leaf attach-

ment: Petiolate. Petiole dimensions: 10.0 mm in

length and 1.5 mm in diameter. Petiole surface:

Rough. Petiole color: Immature 144C; Mature 145B.

*Inflorescence*.—Form: Capitulate cymes. Quantity of

flowers per inflorescence: 20–40. Time and duration

of flowering: Late May-June; bracts persisting up to

1 month. Floral bracts: Present. Fused or unfused:

Unfused. Shape: Elliptic to broadly elliptic. Number:

4. Color (adaxial surface): Outer margin 155D; center

134C. Color (abaxial surface): Outer margin

155D; center 145C. Surface: Glabrous. Dimensions:

5.75 cm in length and 3.8 cm in width. Peduncle: 3.5

cm to 7.5 cm in length.

*Reproductive organs*.—Style: Cylindrical. Stamen

number: 4. Stamen dimensions: Approximately 3

mm in length and 0.3 mm in width. Stamen color:

155C. Anther dimensions: Approximately 0.5 mm in

length and 0.75 mm in width. Anther color: 162B.

*Seed*.—None observed to date.

It is claimed:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of *Cornus* plant named 'TRI-SPLENDOR' as described and illustrated herein.

\* \* \* \* \*



FIG. 1



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4