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# WILMAT HOLLIES

1956

**Evergreen Red Berried  
English – Chinese – American**



**DESCRIPTIONS**

**and**

**TRADE LIST**



**THE WILMAT HOLLY CO.**

*Nursery*

**35th & Ridge Avenue  
Philadelphia 32**

*Office*

**Narberth, Pa.**

**Telephone: BALdwin 3-9493**

## PLEASE READ

We are proud of this collection, which is the result of diligent search over seven northeastern states to find the parent trees. Only those which have been growing a long time in their present location, frequently over 30 years, were chosen.

We are indebted to botanists of The Royal Botanic Garden for their aid in identification, particularly of the clones of *Ilex aquifolium*.

All of our stock is grown from cuttings and established in pots before shipping. Prices quoted in this Trade List are only for nurserymen, florists and dealers. Delivery costs are to be paid by the purchaser.

All hollies are packed in boxes or cartons with the root balls wrapped in polyethylene to assure arrival in good condition. Packing is free on all orders accompanied by cash. On others packing will be charged at cost.

The Holly Check List is our guide in nomenclature.

One year plants make more rapid growth if they have the protection of a lath covered plant bed for one year. If they must be lined out, a well prepared soil plus a mulch is essential. Do not cultivate hollies because the shallow root system is too often injured. They should be handled in the same manner as rhododendrons. Deep planting has killed more hollies than any other cause. They thrive if the top roots are covered only with the mulch.

Please order early. 25 of one variety at the 100 rate.

### HOW TO ORDER

All prices in this catalog are F.O.B. Narberth, Pa. No discounts will be allowed. Prices quoted will hold for 1956 and supersede all others.

### GUARANTEE

We guarantee that our stock is well grown, well rooted and carefully packed. Because of conditions and circumstances of which we have no knowledge, we give no guarantee that our stock will live and grow.

### TERMS

Our terms are cash with the order. On express C.O.D. shipments one quarter of the amount must be received with the order. Make check or money order payable to Wilmat Holly Company.

We earnestly request patrons to send orders in early. The stock of several items is limited. Please give us definite shipping instructions and the proper address.

Most of our shipments are sent express collect and are insured. If parcel post shipment is requested, it will not be insured and travels at the buyer's risk. We do not suggest parcel post shipments if there is an express station available.

On parcel post shipments there will be a minimum shipping charge of 80c added to orders of less than \$10.00; above \$10.00 add 10% for parcel post shipment.

## THE WILMAT HOLLY COMPANY

Box 304—Narberth, Pa.

January, 1956.

## ENGLISH HOLLY VARIETIES

The tree known as English holly is native to the British Isles, most of Europe, parts of Asia and north Africa. The botanists call it *Ilex aquifolium*. It varies greatly in shape, size of leaf and berry, and in manner of growth.

Several varieties of English holly were brought to this country between 1890 and 1930. Some went to Oregon and Washington. These are called Oregon holly. Others were planted in the east. All of the English holly varieties listed here have been taken from trees of known hardiness growing from southern Pennsylvania to Connecticut.

Planted carefully, with the proper exposure and in prepared soil, they should thrive in locations supposed to be too far north for English holly.

## ENGLISH HOLLIES

### BERRY BEARING

#### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM ALCICORNIS

The large broad glossy leaves are armed with regularly spaced long, stiff, sharp spines. This variety grows rapidly and is apparently quite hardy. The berries are a brilliant red.

#### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM FISHER (Fisher's Best)

The parent tree growing in eastern Pennsylvania is a handsome free growing sort which produces parthenocarpic fruit freely. A male strain has also been identified whose wedge shaped leaves measure 3 inches in length.

#### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM HANDSWORTH

This tree is at least 40 years old. Its height is 19 feet, while at the base it is ten feet in diameter. Normally it bears a moderate crop of orange red berries of average size. This is an extreme hardy variety, compact and symmetrical.

#### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM HETEROPHYLLA

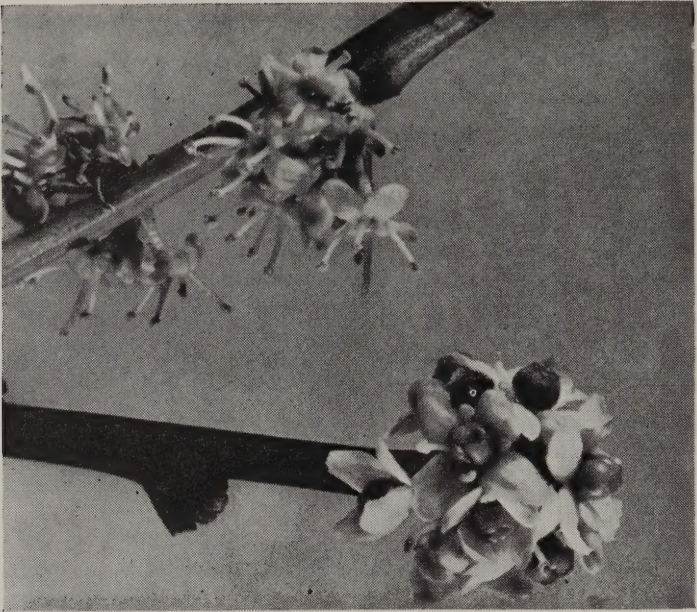
The moderate sized glossy leaves are variously spined or entire. The brilliantly red berries and deep purple stems make it a handsome specimen.

#### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM INTEGRIFOLIA

Comes from just over the southern Pennsylvania line in Delaware. The parent bush is ten feet tall with equal spread. The foliage seems as glossy as on *Ilex cornuta* but of a deep green color. It bears berries in considerable quantity each year, even though there is no staminate *aquifolium* tree nearby. A male form is one of the best pollinators.

#### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM LICHTENTHAL

The outstanding characteristics of this are: (1) the glossy pale green foliage, and (2) except for the terminal spine, there are usually only two others on each leaf. These are placed just back of the apex and point forward, giving the leaf a distinctive shape. The parent trees, three in number, are about 25 years old, broadly conical about 12 feet in height. The fruit is of average size and brilliant red.



*Hollies are male and female. One tree will have male or pollen-producing flowers; another, female. In the picture, male blossoms are in the upper part. Below notice the knob in the center of each female flower. This becomes the berry.*

## MALES

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM FOX (Fox Holly)

Is growing in a garden which was laid out in 1906. The tree is taller and narrower than *handsworthensis*, while the foliage is a lighter green. A male clone—an excellent pollinator.

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM PYRAMIDALIS

A fine vigorous-habited male variety with purple bark. The leaves are large, dark green, oblong-elliptic with scattered spines. Many have entire margins. The parent tree has thrived north of Philadelphia for forty years, and now has two trunks, each over 6 inches in diameter.

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM ROBINSON

Bark deep red, leaves dark olive green, sharply spined. It grows rapidly and blossoms heavily when young. A male.

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM WHITTINGTON

A small leaved elegant holly with purple bark and elliptic-ovate leaves having numerous stiff divaricate spines.

## PRICES OF ABOVE

1 year 3" pot.....\$45.00 per 100  
 4" pots—write for prices.

### ILEX AQUIFOLIUM ALTA CLARENSIS

The stock tree from which these were taken is fully 25 feet in height and 10 feet in breadth. It is one of the finest and hardiest of the group with roundish-ovate leaves 3 to 4 inches long. On some leaves the spines are numerous and regularly developed, while on others they are few or absent. It fruits freely without a male form present.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM BELGICA** (Belgian Holly)

Sometimes called Dutch holly. Leaves large oblong-ovate and sap green in color. It is not unlike shepherd, but berries more freely.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM W. J. BEAN** (Bean Holly)

At Kew this is considered one of the best, and the stock tree from which these cuttings were taken measures up to their estimation. It is tall and compact with leaves somewhat resembling hodgins, though smaller. The fruit is large and bright red.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM DONNINGTON**

The spiny leaves are thick-textured and of purple hue. The tree is free growing and bears a fine crop of berries. An excellent hardy variety.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM FRUCTU-AURANTIACO**  
(Orange Berried Holly)

Leaves deep green and sharply spined. Berries a bright orange. An attractive novelty.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM FRUCTU-LUTEO**  
(Yellow Berried Holly)

This is the oldest known variety of English holly. History says it was discovered several centuries ago growing in the woods near Wardour Castle in Wiltshire. The yellow fruits are attractive.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM HODGINS** (Hodgin's Holly)

The tree from which these cuttings were taken is an illustration of holly at its best in the northeast. Pyramidal, compact, 12 feet in height with large dark green leaves and fruit  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter, it has thrived in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, for 20 or more years.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM JAN VANTOL**

One of the best known and preferred hollies. Also one of the hardiest. The berries are as much as  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter and plentiful.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM RECURVA**

A superb hedge plant. The small sharply spined and recurved leaves are closely set on a twiggy compact shrub.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM SHEPHERD**

One of the finest and hardiest of the large leafed hybrids. In texture and shape, the leaves indicate platyphylla parentage. A superb tree.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM SMITHIANA** (Smith's Holly)

A distinct variety with narrow leaves—the green counterpart of donningtonensis. The bark is green or tinged with reddish purple. The leaves are 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and about 1 inch in width, of a bright glossy green and having weakish spines which are moderately divaricate. Contrary to Dallimore, this tree produces an abundance of berries though there is a male strain.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM SCOTICA** (Scotch Holly)

A distinct and well marked holly, the young shoots of which are deep purple. The leaves are round obovate of medium size, with a deep green color, of corky texture and with few spines. The berries are above average in size and showy. It grows well in Scotland.



*Above, Golden Queen, a superb variegated holly.  
Below, Ciliata major, one of the most beautiful.*



*Two of the hybrid group. Above, Belgica; below, Hodgins.*

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM WILSON** (Wilson's Holly)

A vigorous growing green barked holly with leaves as much as 5 inches in length. Considered by many the most beautiful of all evergreen hollies. Rare.

Complete information on the culture of hollies—"Growing Evergreen Hollies," by H. Gleason Mattoon. Price \$1.00.

**MALES**

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM ANGUSTIFOLIA**

A tiny leafed male holly which rates high as an ornamental but is of no value for pollinating. Rare.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM BARNES**, male

This bud sport of *I. aquifolium angustifolia* has small quadrangular leaves with 5 or 7 large divaricate spines. An excellent pollinator. Rare.

**ILEX AQUIFOLIUM CRISPA** (Screw-leafed holly)

Its spirally twisted leaves are usually spineless and of moderate size. This is a male form, attractive as an ornamental.

**PRICES OF ABOVE**

1 year from 3" pot.....\$55.00 per 100

Write for prices on larger size.



*Integrifolia*, one of the most popular English hollies.





*The upper one is a male variety, Robinson. Below is Smithiana.*

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM ARGENTEA MARGINATA

(Silver Queen)

A lovely holly with dark green leaves edged with an uneven cream colored band. It fruits freely. Not plentiful.

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM AUREA REGINA (Golden Queen)

A beautiful holly and certainly the best of the golden variegated series. The parent tree has been growing in Pennsylvania for 30 or more years, indicating a hardiness worthy of trial over a wide range. Produces dark red berries.

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM CAMELLIAEFOLIA

(Camellia leafed holly)

On the true camellia holly most of the leaves are spineless and sharp tipped. Too often this variety is confused with the one next below. The blossom petals frequently have a purple cast. The fruit is large and rich red.

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM CILIATA MAJOR

A vigorous variety, the young shoots of which are deep purple. To us, this is the most beautiful of all the English hollies growing in the east. The stock plant, which is over 12 feet tall and of equal thickness, has withstood the winter extremes well. The leaves, which are over 3 inches long, have many spines. In color they are dark glossy olive green. The berries are of medium size and bright red.

## ILEX AQUIFOLIUM MARNOCKI

The parent tree is growing in northern New Jersey. The foliage is similar to *camelliaefolia*, but more of the leaves are armed with sturdy spines. Because both the leaves and upper surface of the stems have a purple cast, the tree has a rich but somber appearance. It produces berries of medium size.

## CANARY ISLAND HOLLIES

The following two varieties are unique. Though apparently of warm climate origin, the trees from which these plants were propagated have lived in eastern Pennsylvania for more than 20 years and seem to have acclimated themselves to the vagaries of the weather. The stock is scarce.

### ILEX PLATYPHYLLA BALEARICA (Balearic Holly)

Usually classed as a variety of *aquifolium*, it bears little resemblance to it. The large oblong-ovate flat leaves are frequently spineless. A vigorous grower which berries freely.

### ILEX PLATYPHYLLA PALLIDA (Gray Leafed Holly)

As lovely a holly as ever grew. The gently arching elliptic gray green leaves are frequently four inches long. The berries are extremely large and bright orange red. A collector's item.

### PRICE OF ABOVE

1 year 3" pot.....\$65.00 per 100

4"—write for prices.

## HOLLIES OF ASIATIC ORIGIN

Some of the most interesting, unique and beautiful plants of our gardens are of Chinese origin. The hollies of the Orient are no exception. One might be taken for a pear tree, though the foliage is evergreen, and the cherry red fruit is suspended on 2 inch stems. Another has the glossiest leaves and the largest and sharpest spines. All of them should be better known and more widely tried.

### ILEX AQUIPERNYI male and female

Though this is a cross between aquifolium and pernyi, because it shows more clearly the pernyi parentage, it is put in the Chinese group. A neat small tree with sharply spined leaves. Because of its hybrid vigor and seeming hardiness, it should be tried over a wide range. Rare.

### ILEX AQUIPERNYI BRILLIANT, female

A hybrid of pernyi and aquifolium with vigor, charm and fine fruit. It grows rapidly and is quite hardy in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

### ILEX CORNUTA

An ornamental small tree with handsome lustrous foliage of odd shape. Questionably hardy north of Philadelphia. Both male and female trees are available. It thrives in heat and light soil.

### ILEX CORNUTA BURFORDI

A fruiting seedling sport of cornuta which is hardier than the species. Plantings on Long Island have done well. As a distinct and well marked holly, the young shoots of a specimen or in foundation, it is unexcelled the year around. It is at home in a sandy soil with temperature of 95°.

### ILEX PERNYI

Has tiny, crowded, rhombic leaves usually with two spines on each side with a long sharp terminal one. The ovoid red fruit is closely appressed to the twig. Fine specimens are growing near Philadelphia.

### ILEX CORNUTA ROTUNDA, male and female

An ideal hedge plant—compact, broad and low growing. Similar in form to English box.

### ILEX CENTROCHINENSIS, male and female

Formerly Cliospinosa. Hardy, upright, grows to 20 feet. Berries red.

### ILEX CHINENSIS, male and female

Formerly purpurea oldhamia. Fast growing and attractive. For the South.

#### PRICES OF ABOVE

1 year 3" pot.....\$45.00 per 100  
4"—write for prices.

### ILEX LATIFOLIA, male and female

An exotically striking holly with leaves as much as 8 inches long and from 2 to 3 inches wide. Questionably hardy at Philadelphia, it does well on the Eastern Shore and from Washington south.

### ILEX PEDUNCULOSA (The Long Stalk Holly)

Male and female.

A superb holly which should be better known because of its beauty and hardiness. A columnar tree with cherry red fruits which are suspended on long stems. Must have both male and female trees for fruit.

#### PRICES OF ABOVE

1 year 3" pot.....\$65.00 per 100  
4"—write for prices.



*Ilex pernyi*. A lovely small-leaved Chinese species.



The Chinese horned holly, *Ilex cornuta*. Glossy leaves and plentiful red fruit. A wonderful plant for hedge or specimen.



*This is the long-stalked holly, Ilex pedunculosa. The red berries hang down on two-inch stems.*

## AMERICAN HOLLY

Though this is at the bottom of the list, do not overlook it. In hardiness it is superior to all the other red fruited evergreen hollies. Native from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, south, any of those listed below can be tried where the temperature does not go lower than 20 degrees below zero.

American holly is so variable in the wild that we purposely carry no seedlings. Only rooted cuttings or grafted plants of select varieties or strains will be found listed. Even though the male opaca items do not carry a varietal name, they are nevertheless selections we consider worthy of dissemination.

### ILEX OPACA ARDEN

This variety has been propagated many years and is still in the high quality group. Its hardiness, the deep green color of the leaves and the size and profusion of berries class it among the best.

### ILEX OPACA CARDINAL

A compact plant with large dark green leaves and bright red fruit. One of the good American hollies.

**ILEX OPACA CLARK**

Fine for hedges and as a specimen. Good berry and foliage. Hardy.

**ILEX OPACA EVANS**

An interesting plant with large apple green leaves, somewhat contorted. Both the leaf petiole and the twigs are wavy in growth. The berries are large and profuse.

**ILEX OPACA MANIG**

An Elizabeth White selection. Excellent.

**ILEX OPACA MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Excellent berry and leaf.

**ILEX OPACA SELECTED HEAVY FRUITER**

Known for their heavy crop of bright red berries and fine foliage.

**ILEX OPACA XANTHOCARPA (Yellow Berried Holly)**

There are many American hollies with yellow berries. We have tried several, but this is outstanding in clearness of color, dense growth, and excellent color of leaves.

**ILEX OPACA, male**

We have good male plants chosen for the fertility of their pollen.

**PRICE OF ABOVE**

1 year 3" pots.....\$45.00 per 100  
4"—write for price.

> **ILEX OPACA CONN. SELECTIONS**

Known for their hardiness, fruiting habits and good color winter and summer.

**ILEX OPACA DRAPER**

A neat dense tree with moderate sized spiny leaves of good color and texture. Hardy. Shiny red berries.

> **ILEX OPACA VICTORY**

One of the Boyce Thompson selections. Large leaf and fine berry.

**PRICE OF ABOVE**

1 year 3" pot.....\$65.00 per 100  
4"—write for price.

**ILEX OPACA OLD HEAVY BERRY**

Hard to root, though a superb variety with the glossiest foliage of all American hollies. \$75.00 per 100.

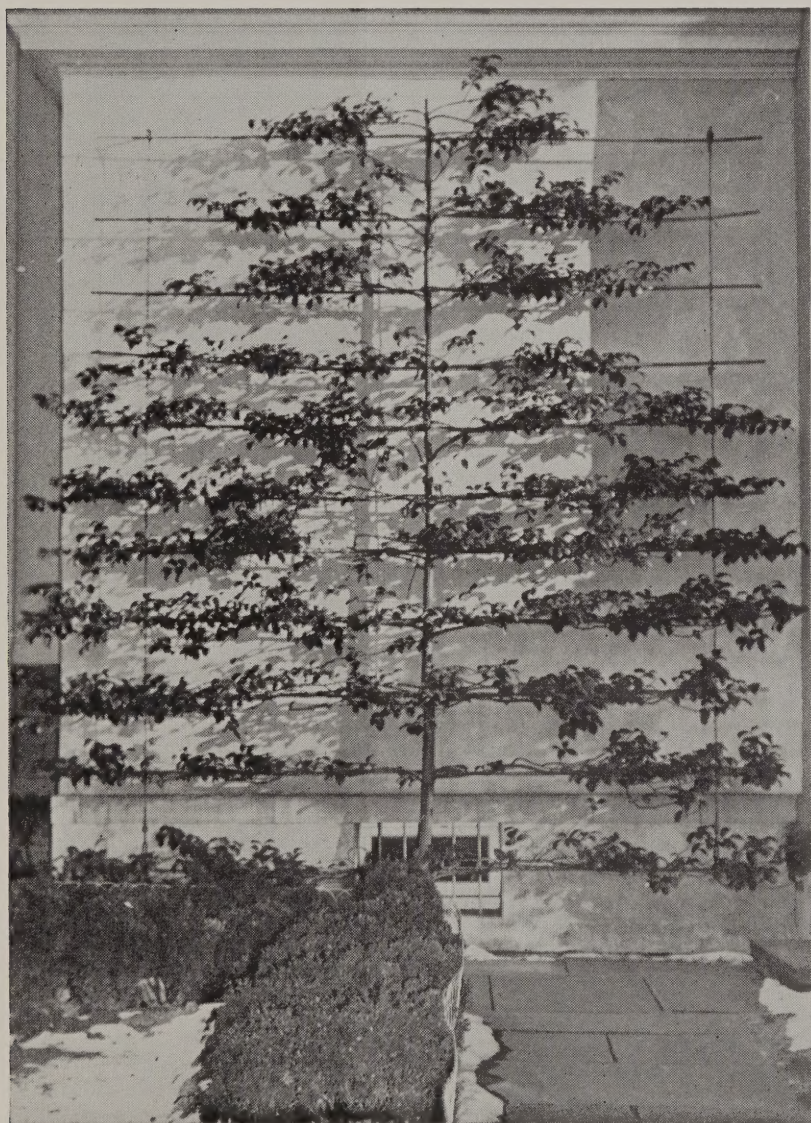
"Growing Evergreen Hollies" by H. Gleason Mattoon, completely revised, is now off the press. 48 pages—Price \$1.00.

## USE OF HOLLIES

By growing holly in congenial soil you will find that it has uses normally unsuspected. As "common holly" of the British Isles is considered in England to be the perfect tree for hedges both ornamental and purposeful, so both English and American hollies possess those qualifications for much of the vast area of the United States east of the Mississippi.

Holly may be sheared formally or not and it may be kept at two or twelve feet in height. Close cropping reduces the number of berries but makes a dense discouraging barrier against man and animals. The ease with which holly is restricted by shearing leads to the belief that it would be a worthy subject for the topiarists art.

For espaliering it is ideal. A fan shaped espalier or a conventional tree design as illustrated, can be produced by careful and lengthy training. The art is time consuming and exacting and one that is too little appreciated in America.



*An American holly espaliered conventionally against the north wall of a house. The red berries and rich green foliage are cheery notes throughout the winter.*

Hollies lend themselves readily to a variety of other uses. As sentinels at the entrance they may be sheared to fastigate compactness or permitted to grow delightfully asymmetrical which is frequently their nature. Quite naturally hollies, because of their year around beauty, are on the preferred list of ornamental trees. Each one should be chosen for quality and desired characteristics for they are not like peas in a pod. Not only do they vary in color, size and shape of berry and leaf but also in general growth traits.

More often holly is seen as a lawn specimen or as an interesting accent in foundation planting. Wherever used, if thought is given to the right species and variety for the purpose, the ultimate effect will always be pleasing.

Nursery is open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 to 5:00. No business transacted on Sunday except by special appointment.

