

Ilex - Growing Guide

Ilex Growing Guide

Holly

Holly trees are generally thought of as prickly windbreak trees whose berries make seasonal Christmas decorations. However, the genus is vast and variable, and hollies come in many different shapes and sizes both as regards their leaves and in the way that they grow. Not all species are actually evergreen and many make attractive ornamental trees in the garden with a range of different displays of berries.

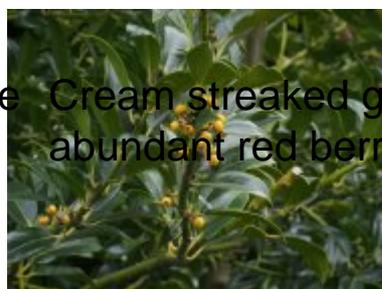
All species and varieties of holly which we offer are perfectly hardy but it has to be recognised that male and female flowers are usually (but not always) borne on separate trees. You will need to grow plants of both sexes reasonably close by (or reasonably near common holly, *Ilex aquifolium*) to obtain a crop of berries on female forms.

Ilex aquifolium has a multitude of different varieties with attractive and different leaves. These are basically smaller windbreak or hedging trees with ornamental value in the garden.



'Argentea
Marginata'

Ilex aquifolium



Female Cream streaked green leaves and abundant red berries

Ilex aquifolium



Ilex aquifolium



Ilex aquifolium



Ilex 'Argentea Marginata'

'Atlas'

Male

Dark green shiny leaves

15f



Ilex 'Atlas'



Ilex 'Atlas'

'Bacciflava'

Female

Striking and unusual yellow berries

30f



Ilex 'Bacciflava'



Ilex 'Bacciflava'



Ilex 'Bacciflava'



Ilex 'Bacciflava'



Ilex 'Bacciflava'

'Ferox
Argentea'

Male

Creamy-white leaf margins on convoluted
and puckered leaves with large spines

25f

'Golden van
Tol'

Female

Pyramidal habit and yellow edged leaves.
Orange berries.

12f



Ilex 'Golden van Tol'



Ilex 'Golden van Tol'



Ilex 'Golden van Tol'



Ilex 'Golden van Tol'

'J C van Tol' Female Dark and nearly spineless green leaves and red berries 20f



Ilex 'J C van Tol'



Ilex 'J C van Tol'

'Pyramidalis' Self-fertile with a conical upright habit. Red berries. 20f



Ilex 'Pyramidalis'

'Silver Queen' Male Broad creamy margins to its spiny leaves 30f



Ilex aquifolium 'Silver Queen'



Ilex aquifolium 'Silver Queen'



Ilex aquifolium 'Silver Queen'

Ilex x altaclerensis varieties make larger freestanding ornamental trees in the garden and are generally grown for this purpose often to shelter more tender plants from wind in the lee. Those with variegated foliage perform best in full sun.



Ilex x altaclerensis
'Golden King'



Ilex x altaclerensis
'Golden King'

'Belgica Aurea' Female Creamy edged leaves

40f



Ilex 'Belgica Aurea'



Ilex 'Belgica Aurea'



Ilex 'Belgica Aurea'

'Camelliifolia' Female This variety grows into a large tree with shiny green leaves and relatively few spines

45f



Ilex x meserveae 'Blue Princess'



Ilex x meserveae 'Blue Princess'



Ilex x meserveae 'Blue Prince'



Ilex x meserveae 'Blue Prince'



Ilex x meserveae 'Blue Prince'



Ilex x meserveae 'Blue Prince'

I. perado grows with us as a dense thicket 20-30ft tall and, despite coming from the Canary Islands, it makes an excellent hedge or windbreak. Berries persist into the spring and feature with the flowers. This species has been readily self-sown around the gardens here by birds.



Ilex perado



Ilex perado



Ilex perado



Ilex perado



Ilex perado



Ilex perado subsp.
platyphylla



Ilex perado subsp.
platyphylla



Ilex perado subsp.
platyphylla



Ilex perado subsp.
platyphylla as a hedge



Ilex perado subsp.
platyphylla leaves



Ilex perado subsp.
platyphylla as a hedge



Ilex crenata 'Golden Gem'



Ilex crenata 'Golden Gem'



Ilex crenata 'Golden Gem'



Ilex x koehneana
'Chestnut Leaf'



Ilex x koehneana
'Chestnut Leaf'



Ilex x koehneana
'Chestnut Leaf'



Ilex spinigera



Ilex spinigera



Ilex spinigera



Ilex spinigera



Ilex verticillata



Ilex verticillata



Ilex verticillata



Ilex verticillata



Ilex verticillata



Ilex verticillata

I. kingiana is coming into production in the nursery along with the fairly similar I. latifolia. Both grow into 25-30ft trees. I. kingiana especially has berries which only really ripen and turn red in the spring providing a great spectacle alongside the flowers. Both species have naturalised themselves here and there in the garden.



Ilex kingiana as a tree



Ilex kingiana berries



Ilex kingiana berries & new growth



Ilex kingiana berries & new growth



Ilex kingiana berries & new growth



Ilex kingiana old & new berries



Ilex kingiana old & new berries



Ilex dipyrrena



Ilex dipyrrena foliage



Ilex dipyrrena



Ilex latifolia



Ilex latifolia



Ilex latifolia berries



Ilex latifolia berries



Ilex latifolia leaves



Ilex latifolia



Ilex latifolia



Ilex mutchagara



Ilex mutchagara



Ilex mutchagara



Ilex mutchagara



Ilex mutchagara



Ilex x attenuata 'Sunny Foster'

Ilex x attenuata 'Sunny Foster'



Ilex x attenuata 'Sunny Foster'



View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/jasfQXDBckM>

Ilex Aquifolium 'Bacciflava' - Video Tip

Yellow berries for Christmas decorations.

View this video on Youtube here https://www.youtube.com/5RBBvD30T_M

I. Verticillata & Dimorphophylla - Video Tip

View this video on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/fc89yPKAdpU>

Ilex Species Article

[Click here to read all about the Ilex species at Caerhays](#)

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