

Holly

(Ilex sp.)

The holly group covers a large number of evergreen and deciduous small trees and shrubs. Flowers are inconspicuous, but the black or red berries are most decorative in fall and winter. All but the Chinese holly require both male and female plants to produce berries.

Soil: Well drained, slightly acidic

Light: Full sun to part shade

Zone: 4 - 7

Comments

Least hardy: English (*I. aquifolium*), with blue-black grapelike fruits and bronze fall leaves; and Chinese (*I. cornuta*), with red berries.

Midzone: Japanese (*I. crenata*), with black berries; Long-stalk (*I. pedunculosa*), with red, drooping berries and spineless leaves; and American (*I. opaca*) a columnar, evergreen tree with short, spreading branches. Hardy: Gallberry (*I. glabra*), with white flowers and black berries; and Winterberry (*I. verticillata*) with red berries and dull leaves.