



# HOLLIES

“Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.” - ANONYMOUS

The dark, blue-green spiny leaves and bright red, yellow or black berries make holly a valuable evergreen in the landscape...particularly in the winter garden. Hollies can be used in our landscapes in a myriad of ways. Cut branches with berries are useful for holiday decorating and arrangements, and holly berries are a great source of food for birds. With the exception of a few species, hollies are evergreen.

## Where To Plant

Hollies in general prefer well-drained, slightly acid soil. They will grow well in either sun or part shade. Hollies should be protected from drying winter winds. There are hollies for most situations — Inkberry and Winterberry hollies will tolerate wet, poorly drained soil. Japanese Holly will grow in more shade than most, but are very sensitive to poor drainage.

## Planting

Hollies may be planted any time of the year; best times are spring, summer and fall. To ensure good drainage, hollies should be planted high, with 1/4 of the rootball above existing ground level, in a hole at least twice as wide as the rootball. Hollies like a loose, peaty soil.

## Watering – First Season in Ground

Spring and summer plantings should be watered 2-3 times per week until fall, then once a week until Christmas. Fall plantings should be watered 1-2 times per week until Christmas. Plants may need to be watered as often as once a

day if they're small or the weather is hot. Always check the soil's moisture level before watering. It should be lightly moist several inches down. In following years, you will need to water your hollies about once a week when we do not get a good, soaking rain that week. Plants will need more water in hot summer and while in flower, and less in fall and winter.

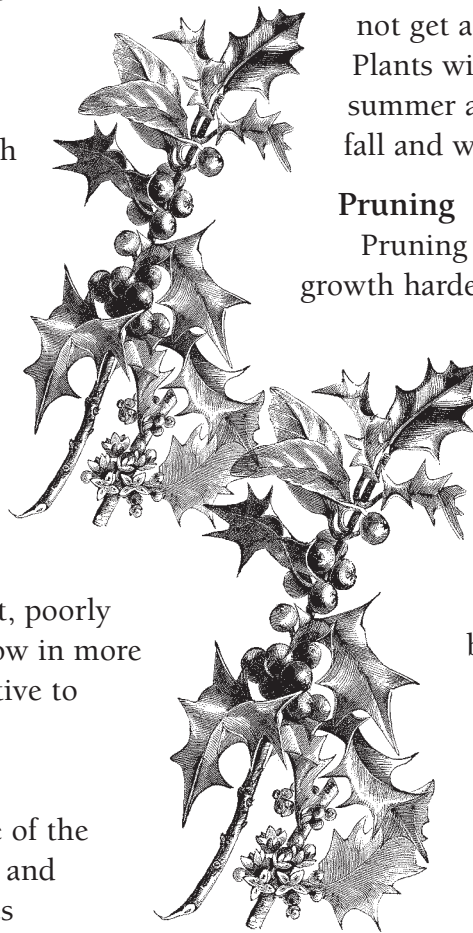
## Pruning

Pruning can be done anytime after new growth hardens off in spring through mid-August. Don't prune in the early fall or new growth may be too tender to survive hard frost. Many people like to take clippings at Christmas and this is a good time if the pruning is not extreme. American holly is best pruned during the winter since the berries occur on the current year's growth.

## Ensuring Berries

Holly plants are generally male or female. Both sexes have flowers but only the females produce berries. If you are growing hollies for their ornamental berries, you will need to ensure there are appropriate male pollinators. Males can be planted anywhere within 1/4 mile of females for excellent berry sets. A proportion of one male holly to 6-10 compatible females is good. A few hollies will produce berries in the absence of a male.

*(See back page for Holly varieties.)*



FEMALE HOLLIES	MALE POLLINATOR	LANDSCAPE USE	HEIGHT/ WIDTH	BERRY COLOR
<b>CHINESE</b>				
Nellie Stevens*	China Boy	Pyramidal specimen	15-20'/10-15'	Red
<b>HYBRIDS</b>				
Dr. Kassab	China Boy	Pyramidal specimen	15-20'/10-15'	Red
<b>JAPANESE BLACK HOLLIES</b>				
Compacta	n/a	Foundation, hedge	6'/6'	
<b>ILEX CRENATA</b>				
Green Lustre	n/a	Low foundation, hedge	3'/6'	Black
Helleri	n/a	Low foundation	4'/5'	Black
Hetzii	n/a	Foundation, hedge	6-8'/6-8'	Black
Chesapeake	n/a	Screen, hedge	8-10'/4-6'	Black
Hoogendorn	n/a	Low foundation	2-3'/3-4'	Black
<b>ILEX GLABRA</b>				
Compact Inkberry	n/a	Foundation, hedge	4'/4'	Black
Shamrock	n/a	Foundation, hedge	4'/4'	Black
<b>ILEX VERTICILLATA</b>				
Sparkleberry	verticillata male	Shrub border	8'/8'	Red
Winter Red	verticillata male	Shrub border	6'/6'	Red
<b>ILEX X MESERVE</b>				
Blue Angel	meserve male	Pyramidal specimen	4'/4'	Red
Blue Girl	meserve male	Pyramidal specimen	8'/6'	Red
Blue Maid	meserve male	Pyramidal specimen	10'/8'	Red
Blue Princess	meserve male	Pyramidal specimen	10'/8'	Red
Golden Girl	meserve male	Pyramidal specimen	10'/8'	Yellow
China Girl	meserve male	Pyramidal specimen	5'/5'	Red
Dragon Lady	meserve male	Pyramidal specimen	15-20/4-6'	Red
Blue Stallion (male)	n/a	Pyramidal specimen	8-12'	n/a
Blue Boy (male)	n/a	Pyramidal specimen	10-15'	n/a
Blue Prince (male)	n/a	Pyramidal specimen	8-12'/8-10'	n/a
China Boy (male)	n/a	Pyramidal specimen	10'/8'	n/a

\*These hollies set berries without male pollinator, but berries will be heavier and more reliable with male.