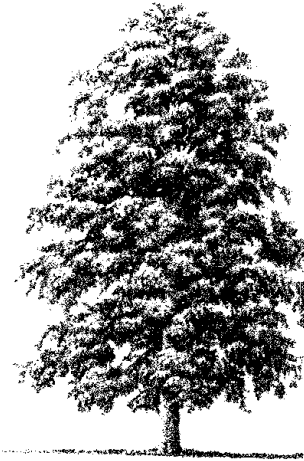
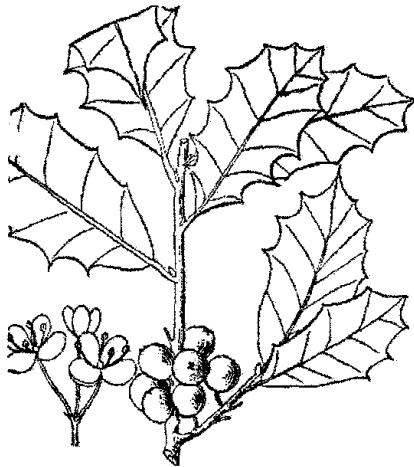


American Holly

Ilex opaca



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This native broadleaf evergreen tree can be a magnificent specimen to have in the landscape. Along the New Jersey shore there are dense stands of the American holly just behind the dunes and in North Carolina it is an understory tree of the deciduous hardwood forest. The desirable features of this tree are its stately pyramidal evergreen form, its dense matte green foliage, the bright red enduring berries on the females and the smooth grey white bark.

HABIT AND SIZE: 40-50'high (15-30' more usual) and 18-40' wide strongly pyramidal when young developing a more open, irregular and high branching form with age. The branching is very dense.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Perhaps the best tree type holly, it is an excellent specimen in a formal setting, in groups for an informal screen or in a row for a hedge. The females are valued for their berries and the males for their glossier foliage and sweet smelling flowers.

LEAVES: Alternately arranged, simple, evergreen leaves 2-4" long and 1-2" wide, elliptical or obovate with large remote spiny teeth (few teeth in older plants near the apex of the branch), obtuse or acute at the tip. Leaf color dark matte green on top and yellowish green

FLOWERS: 3-10 staminate flowers in 0.5-1' long cymes, the individual flowers with 4lobed calyx and 4 petals and stamens. Solitary and scattered pistillate flowers with 4 acute calyx lobes, 4 petals and a ciliate sessile stigma.

FRUIT: A globose or globose-oblong drupe, red (rarely yellow) 0-4" in diameter on a 0.25" pedicel.

BUD: Twigs are brown or gray, stout and covered with fine hairs when young.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: A number of problems such as holly leaf miner, bud moth, scales, beetles, whitefly, berry midge, mites, twig die back and scale.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 5-9. Mass. to Fla. west to Mo. and Tex.

CULTIVARS: Over 1000 cultivars some region specific. 'Carolina #2', 'Croonenburg', 'Dan Fenton', 'Jersey Princess', 'Judy Evans' and 'Miss Helen' good for northern gardens.