

ARBORETUM BOKRIJK
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2009 ANNUAL REPORT

As already mentioned last year, we had a very severe, cold winter. It began the last week of December 2008 and the coldest days lasted until 10 January 2009. The lowest temperature was -21.5°C . It was the most severe winter in our region since 1986 .

Needless to say, we had a lot of damage. We lost all our *Ilex mitis* from South Africa; it was killed to the ground and they did not re-sprout. Also, our *Ilex kingiana*, a group of 18 plants more than 4 meters high, were killed, and the same occurred for a group of 30 *Ilex canariensis*. All the above mentioned species were from wild collected origin.

Our *Ilex cornuta* cultivars had a lot of damage but most of them recovered. *Ilex purpurea* lost most of their leaves but by the end of the season they had new leaves and looked quite healthy. Smaller plants of *Ilex integra* were killed, especially those of Japanese origin. Our larger plants of *Ilex integra* (of Korean origin), planted below a cover of sixty year old *Pinus sylvestris*, suffered only minor leaf damage. We also lost *Ilex formosana* and all our cultivars of *Ilex vomitoria*. The hardiest form of the *Ilex vomitoria* that we have is 'Virginia Dare', which was severely damaged but not killed to the ground. The winter was too severe for *Ilex* (Sp 98FAB18) collected by Frank Bell in Yunnan China.

We have no new additions. We have a lot of work to do with all the damaged plants, and it was not only the hollies but most of our Camellia collection was also severely damaged.

We thought that our climate was changing to a more favorable sub-tropical one, but that will be in the future, if we believe the climate watchers of today!!

After a very cold winter we had a very dry summer, so that was an other problem. I can say that the year 2009 was a horrible year for the gardener.

We had a surprise, but unfortunately not in the *Ilex* world: our *Magnolia conifera* ssp. *chingii* (the former *Manglietia*) had no damage at all.

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