

The James Frorer Holly Collection of
The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College

Swarthmore, Pennsylvania (USDA Hardiness Zone 6b)

2009 Annual Report

The James Frorer Holly Collection was established in 1974, and is located in the southwestern section of the Swarthmore College. The collection is named after James R. Frorer, notable benefactor and alumnus of the Swarthmore College class of 1915. The 450 holly specimens that he donated to The Scott Arboretum were formerly located at his Delaware property and were transplanted to establish the initial collection. The collection is recognized by the Holly Society of America as a national collection and is one of three holdings located at the Scott Arboretum to be a part of the National American Plants Collections Consortium (NAPCC). The majority of the collection is situated between the Crum Woods tree line and the Crum creek floodplain, on a steeply graded hill. The 4.5 acres provides southern exposure for the larger specimens, while the bog species are located in the floodplain.

Weather conditions during the course of 2009 were atypical, with the summer having a much lower average temperature and a very high level of precipitation from June through August. The winter precipitation was undoubtedly the most influential factor on the collection this year. The total accumulation of the 2009/2010 winter was exceptional, reaching a record 71.6" of snow in the Philadelphia region. December surpassed its record for both rain and snow, with snowfall reaching 23.2". However, the two successive storms on February 5th and 6th which dumped 28.5" and February 10 and 11th with an additional 15.8" caused the majority of damage throughout the Scott Arboretum, with the most detrimental damage occurring in the conifer collection. This was an unprecedented amount of snow in the Swarthmore region like most of the northeast. The second storm, which consisted of much heavier wet snow, exacerbated already stressful conditions. The damage to the larger multi-trunked hollies was the most noticeable, as major leaders snapped and affected lower branches. Many smaller shrubs, especially *Ilex crenata* cultivars, were also significantly damaged after being splayed open from the weight of the snow.

This year's highest rated hollies (on a scale of 1-10) are:

Ilex opaca 'Carolina'
Ilex opaca 'Bittersweet'
Ilex opaca 'Felten's Special'
Ilex opaca 'Betsy'
Ilex opaca 'Felton #7'
Ilex opaca 'Jersey Princess'
Ilex opaca 'Slim Jane'

Ilex crenata 'Convexa'
Ilex opaca (Yellow fruiting variety)
Ilex 'William Cowgill'

This year's lowest rated hollies (on a scale of 1-10) are:

Ilex x altaclerensis 'J.C. van Tol'
Ilex crenata var. *paludosa*
Ilex crenata 'Tennyson'
Ilex crenata 'Maxwell'
Ilex leuoclada X *cornuta*
Ilex glabra 'Ivory Queen'
Ilex x meserveae 'Blue Stallion'
Ilex aquifolium 'Rubricaulis Aurea'
Ilex x attenuata 'Lake City'
Ilex cassine
Ilex cornuta 'Slack'
Ilex 'William Cowgill'
Ilex opaca 'Susan'

This year's highest rated fruiting hollies are:

Ilex cornuta 'Burfordii '
Ilex verticillata 'Winter Red'
Ilex verticillata 'Longwood Gold'
Ilex 'Nellie R. Stevens'
Ilex cornuta x *pernyi*

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