

CLARK-LANDSBAUM DEMING PARK HOLLY ARBORETUM

Terre Haute, Indiana
USDA Hardiness Zone 5B

After two years of summer drought, the weather of 2012 was even more severe at the arboretum. The winter was quite mild, and March was the warmest on record. By the middle of April the hollies were growing and in bloom; normally they bloom after May 15. On April 11 and 12 we experienced temperatures of 29° F (-1.7° C) and 30° F (-1.1° C). All new growth and flowers were destroyed. The summer was then hot and dry. In July there were eighteen days with temperatures over 100° F (37.8° C) which was the second hottest July on record. We had the worst drought since 1936, and the area fell into the category Level 4, "Exceptional Drought," for most of the summer. For the first time in several years the overhead sprinkler system was used to water the holly. Since the system covers only a portion of the arboretum, volunteers used hoses to water the hollies not reached by the sprinkler system. This was done twice a week for more than two months. Due to the weather, there was little or no growth and no berry production this year.

A number of the hollies show signs of chlorosis and appear stressed. Hollies deleted this year were:

Ilex crenata 'Green Lustre', 'Sky Pencil', 'Robert Culpepper', 'Snowflake', and 'Rotundifolia'

I. hybrid Red Holly 'Robin'TM (2)

I. hybrid Blue Holly 'Blue Prince' R, and 'Gretchen'

Four hollies were added: *I. crenata* 'Sky Pencil', *I.* hybrids 'Blue Prince' ®, 'China Girl' ®, and 'China Boy' ®.

To promote and expand the planting of holly, we have planted a number of hollies throughout the area. Each local Master Gardeners class is given a tour of the arboretum. Ivy Tech Community College students enrolled in a woody landscape plants class toured the arboretum and took cuttings to root in their greenhouse. An ornamental horticulture class from Danville Community College toured the arboretum.

Our arboretum celebrated its' 20th Anniversary on September 23, 2012. We conducted garden tours throughout the day and the mayor of Terre Haute declared a proclamation honoring the arboretum. Then the Great Rivers Chapter of the Holly Society held their annual meeting in Terre Haute to help us celebrate our anniversary.

Robert Artis