

Arboretum Bokrijk

3600 Genk (Limburg) Belgium Zone 7b 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

There is not very much to say about 2012. A lot of damage from the gale in August 2012 forced us to clean up a lot of our collection. As described in the report of 2011, 50% of our woodland garden containing pines (*Pinus sylvestris*) over 100 years old were blown down into the location of the largest part of our holly collection. Perhaps we have to renew some of these plantings or take cuttings or scions of other ones and start again with small plants.

We had another a very cold spell at the end of February, the coldest period in some 60 years and this time we had no snow cover! We had no damage at all because we had already lost so many plants the previous winter.

The only new addition to our collection is an *Ilex verticillata* “Magical Times” that we received from Arie Blom, the manager of the firm “Magical World of Flowers and Plants” (www.magicalworld.eu) that specializes in cut flowers and berries. The cultivar he sent us is an orange berried cultivar with long lasting berries. We sent him several cuttings of other yellow or orange fruited cultivars of *I. decidua* or *I. verticillata*. He has started a breeding program for still better selections.

In 2012 for the first time we had a lot of berries on our *I. purpurea*. Most hollies have interesting berries but the berries of this species are a disappointment. Now I doubt if it is the true species. Our plant has dark purple-red berries and in the literature it is mentioned that *I. purpurea* has beautiful red berries. We received the seeds from a woman we visited in China more than 20 years ago.

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