

MORRIS ARBORETUM of the UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Meadowbrook Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

USDA Hardiness Zone 6A

Two main weather events stand out for 2012: a very mild winter and another hot and dry summer. We had many days with highs from 50° F to 60° F (10° C to 15.6° C) or higher in January and February. Flowering times of spring trees and shrubs appeared to be about two weeks earlier than typical. In July we had many days with highs in the upper 90° F (32.2° C) range and only 1.5 inches (3.8 cm) of rain, officially almost 3 inches (7.6 cm) below normal. As always, I am impressed with the resilience of established hollies, which never seem to show any symptoms despite the extremes in weather.

As of 31 December 2012, we have 170 taxa of *Ilex* planted in our collection.

In 2012, we planted 13 plants of 7 taxa, three of which were new (*) to our collection (one plant unless noted):

**Ilex* × *altaclerensis* ‘Captain Royal’

I. × *altaclerensis* ‘James G. Esson’s

I. ‘Dapat’F

* *I.* ‘Doctor Kassab’ × *latifolia*

* *I. glabra* ‘Peggy’s Cove’ (3 plants)

I. × *koehneana* ‘Lassie’

I. serrata (5 plants)

We lost 24 plants from our collection during 2012 (10 taxa, 6 taxa lost (**)) from the collection; one plant each unless noted):

I. × *aquipernyi* ‘Meschick’ (6 plants)

***I. glabra* ‘Chamzin’

I. glabra ‘Shamrock’ (6 plants)

***I.* × *koehneana* ‘San Jose’

***I. leucoclada*

***I. macropoda* (5 plants)

I. opaca ‘Jersey Knight’

***I. opaca* ‘Mrs. Santa’

I. ‘Raritan Chief’

***I. yunnanensis*

This year there seemed to be very poor fruiting on the *I. opaca* at the Morris Arboretum. I am not sure what accounts for this but it was consistent across all of our plants. Other plants that I have been impressed with are:

I. ‘Conive’ FESTIVE Holly 2007-250*A - excellent fruit set and foliage quality

I. × koehneana ‘Ajax’ 2002-349*B - excellent form and leaf quality; strong central leader

I. × koehneana ‘H. Hohman’ 2001-220*B - excellent form and leaf quality

I. × koehneana ‘Lassie’ 2007-010*A - denser branching structure than other cultivars on site

I. × koehneana ‘Ruby’ 2001-213*A – planted in May 2010; well-established with good new growth and excellent foliage quality; no fruit at this time

I. latifolia 96-002*A & B - male; excellent form and leaf color

I. ‘Rutzan’ (RED BEAUTY) 2006-040*C - dense shape and slow growth good for landscape use

I. ‘Edward J. Stevens’ 96-007*A - excellent form and leaf quality

We are in an ongoing process of rejuvenating our older specimens, particularly *I. opaca* that were planted in the early 1950s. This process has been occurring for several years and we have started to be a more aggressive in our hatrack pruning, so that we can give definition to these older plants. There are one or two older cultivars (e.g. *I. opaca* ‘Mrs. Santa’) that we have had to remove but we have made sure that we have propagated and distributed this variety before removing the original plant.

We do not have *I. opaca* ‘Satyr Hill’, *I. attenuata* ‘Sunny Foster’, *I. aquifolium* ‘Lewis’, *I.* ‘Scepter’, *I. (cornuta × aquifolium)* ‘Nellie R. Stevens’, *I. aquifolium* ‘Proud Mary’.

I. crenata ‘Sky Pencil’: one plant that does not look good due to poor siting. Otherwise, Sky Pencil performs very well in our area.

I. × koehneana ‘Lassie’: two plants with very nice structure, dense lower branching and good fruit set.

I. verticillata ‘Maryland Beauty’: two plants; good shape and densely branched structure, excellent fruit set but these are eaten early by the birds.

I. verticillata ‘Red Sprite’ – several mass plantings; good growth; fruits well, but stripped early in season by birds

Tony Aiello and Elinor Goff