

Planting Fields Arboretum  
1395 Planting Fields Road  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771  
USDA Hardiness Zone 7a

2012 was an interesting year. We had a mild winter with very little snowfall. Spring and summer brought average temperatures and above average rainfall. This provided our hollies with good growing conditions and above average fruit production. However, fall was not so kind. Hurricane Sandy provided us with 90 mph (145 km/hr) winds and flood conditions. We had approximately 300 trees down and many more with broken limbs. A Nor'easter hit right after Hurricane Sandy that brought down more trees and limbs. Some of our hollies were affected by the downed trees but most fared well. The fruit on the deciduous hollies did not last long due to the storm and birds.

According to our records, we did not lose any hollies in 2012 but added the following:

1. *Ilex cassine* v. *angustifolia* 'Tryon Palace'
2. *I. decidua* 'Red Cascade'
3. *I. integra* 'Green Shadow'
4. *I. crenata* 'Soft Touch' (3)
5. *I. × meserveae* 'Honey Maid'
6. *I. verticillata* 'Red Sprite' (2)

Our planting of *I. × 'Mary Nell'* as a privacy hedge has done very well after the storms and put on a lot of growth in 2012. Our *I. pendunculosa* responded very well to the iron injections in 2011 and grew nicely in 2012. *I. crenata* 'Sky Pencil' has always been a great plant in our landscape with no problems. We have added many cultivars of *I. verticillata* within the past 10 years, including 'Red Sprite' and 'Maryland Beauty', and all have done very well. We added *I. × 'Christmas Jewel'* (2012 Test holly) in 2005; however, it did not survive. We hope to add 'Christmas Jewel' again and *I. aquifolium* 'Proud Mary' in 2013/2014.

Kenneth Provenzano  
Plant Curator