

ARBORETUM DES PRES DES CULANDS

Conservatoire National d'Ilex
La Nivelle-45130 Meung Sur Loire, France

Hardiness Zone 8

The beginning of winter, January and February, were very mild. The end of winter, March, was very cold, with temperatures of -10°C to -1.14°C (14°F to 6.8°F). The sap was rising, and some trees did not tolerate the cold. We lost *Ilex cassine*, *I. x meserveae* 'Blue Angel', *I. cornuta* 'Willow Leaf', *I. cornuta* 'Ina Wilson', *I. aquifolium* Argentea Marginata Pendula, as well as several shrubs: *Escallonia*, *Ceanothus*, *Nandina*, and shrub and climbing roses. We had a normal summer and a beautiful autumn, and a very humid October, November and December. Fruiting in *Ilex* was very poor after the freezes of spring.

Ilex that were particularly interesting for their habit and fruiting were *I. x koehneana*, and *I. (cornuta x aquifolium)* 'Nellie R. Stevens'. No particular maintenance treatment is given to our *Ilex*, which permits us to learn the resilience or hardiness of one species compared to another. We noticed mealy bug and leaf miners only on certain species, principally *I. aquifolium*.

On June 1, 2012, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the arboretum. Stephane Marie, host of a French weekly television gardening program (channel 5), "Silence ça Pousse," presided over this special occasion. Along with the *Ilex* collection, the celebration included the Clematis collection from the Arnaud Nurseries and the rose vines which form an enclosure. The Clematis, Astilbes, roses and the Hemerocallis, to mention only a few of our principal collections, allow us to have continuous flowering from April to October. We also enjoy the colors of autumn later on with the Acer collection, all planted among the *Ilex*.

Pierre Paris, Conservateur