

## BOKRIJK ARBORETUM

3600 Genk (Limburg) Belgium (Hardiness Zone 7b)

First, something about the weather in 2013. Although it was a really cold and long winter we had no damage at all to our collection. The reason for this phenomenon was simple: all the “not hardy enough” selections (like most of our *Ilex vomitoria* plants) had already been lost in previous years.

September 2013 was the first time that the Holly Society of America visited the Belgian Test Garden. For that event we selected our own holly hybrid and planted it on 18 September 2013. Our gardeners had chosen its name, *I. 'Pickersgill'*, after Mary Pickersgill who made the first American flag (the Stars and Stripes) in 1812. In honor of her and, of course, also in remembrance of the first visit of the Holly Society, we gave this plant her name. It is a female hybrid of *I. leucoclada*.

We have imported two new introductions, a female clone of *I. buergeri*, and an *I. × attenuata* hybrid, ‘Pack’s Weeping’, both from Camellia Forest Nursery in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

In the past, most of the hollies in cultivation in Europe that we have at Bokrijk were imported from several different sources, mainly from other Holly Society Test Gardens, brought in as scions or cuttings. Many of them were also imported as bare-rooted plants from US nurseries. Today, as the regulations for importing plants have become more complicated, it is difficult to import new, rooted plants.

At the moment we have the largest collection of hollies in Europe; most other gardens in Europe have plants that originated at Bokrijk. We hope to import new selections, cultivars, or especially species, but it has become difficult.

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