

CALLAWAY GARDENS

Pine Mountain, Georgia USDA Hardiness Zone 7B

2013 was a very mild year in Georgia and the Southeastern United States. Temperature highs and lows were well within the normal range for our region. We did experience a very wet year with the rainfall amount 12 in. (30.5 cm) above average. We had 20 more rain days in 2013 than we had in 2012. Plentiful rainfall during the flowering period for many of the hollies helped produce a bumper crop of berries and a beautiful winter display.

We added *Ilex* × 'Mary Nell' to the landscape in the Meadowlark Gardens.

In the winter of 2011 we started a project to rejuvenate some of the older hollies in our collection. A significant number of the canopy trees were removed to increase sunlight and many of the older holly specimens were "hat racked" to encourage new growth. After 2 years we are starting to see vigorous new growth. It appears that the mature 60 to 70 year old plants are slower to respond than the younger 40 to 50 year-olds, but all the hollies are responding to increased sunlight and fertilization.

Cathy Crye, Garden Services