

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
St. Louis, MO USDA Hardiness Zone 6B

While 2012 was one of our warmest years on record, 2013 was cooler than normal. Winter was mild with little snow but we had plenty of rain for good moisture levels. Spring was cool and wet, causing problems with disease on our plantings. Anthracnose was a very serious problem on sycamore. In June the heavy rains stopped and we went into a dry summer and fall. Temperatures remained cooler than normal except for one prolong period in late August and early September with temperatures in the upper 90 °F (32 °C). We went into winter dry despite rainfall having been over 8 in. (20.3 cm) above normal for the year.

The cool, wet spring gave us a good bloom and fruit set. Our *Ilex opacas* recovered from last year's heat by producing much better foliage this year. The berry crop was still heavy at the end of December with no loss due to wildlife. This was in part due to a heavy crabapple fruit set and a cold December. The number of robins was very low at this time.

A heavy, wet spring snow caused a lot of damage to our *I. opacas*. A screen of our *I. × attenuata* 'Greenleaf' lost 6 ft. (1.83 m) off their tops. Heavy pruning was needed to correct the damage but the result was a better screen than before storm.

We lost one *I. opaca* 'Bradley' to a wind storm. A planting of old *I. decidua* cultivars had to be removed so part of the stone wall on the east side of the garden could be rebuilt. No new additions were added to our collection in part because a new policy states that plants must be from wild collected plants.

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