

THE SCOTT ARBORETUM OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Swarthmore, Pennsylvania (USDA Hardiness Zone 6b)

Overall, the winter of 2015–16 was especially mild. December was particularly warm with only a few cold weeks of below freezing temperatures midwinter. As a result, evergreen hollies fared well with little to any leaf burn. The warm temperatures also meant food for birds was plentiful and thus fruits of *Ilex verticillata* were persistent and long lasting. Newer plantings (listed below) show some bleaching as they adjust to permanent planting location: the bright south-facing slope of the holly meadow. Over all, fruit set was bountiful. Holly berry midge (*Asphondylia ilicicola*) is an issue in the James R. Frorer Holly Collection. There are 339 *Ilex* records in BG–Base with 289 accessible through Arboretum Navigator, a searchable database, to locate woody plants, dedicated benches, and trees as well as to create a personalized tour. One accession of *I. opaca* ‘Maryland Dwarf’, Holly Society of America’s 2016 Holly of the Year, can be seen in the collection. It is a beautiful specimen and very distinct with its short and wide spreading habit.

***Ilex* Evaluation Results:**

New Plantings

I. ‘Liberty™’ 2014–175*A Minimal sun bleaching on southern side, some foliage dieback, and newer growth is crisp and clean

I. ‘Mary Nell’ 2014–177*A Bright clean foliage, a standout

I. ‘Dragon Slayer’ 2014–178*A Nice conical shape, some bleaching on southern face

I. Oakland™ 2014–191*A Poorly planted, bleached out, chlorotic

I. ‘Conin’ Robin™ ’ 2014–192*A Heavy, persistent fruit, slight southern bleaching

I. × *altaclerensis* ‘James G. Esson’ 2014–176*A Sparse, blemished leaves, lots of dieback

Poor Performers

I. *aquifolium* ‘Peter’s’ 74–427*A Stringy appearance, sparse foliage, what foliage persists is not bad looking, some dieback

I. *pernyi* ‘Sais’ 2009–111*A Recently transplanted, slightly defoliated, variegation appears sickly

Excellent Performers

I. ‘James Swan’ 75–497*A Bright, shiny green leaves

I. ‘Mary Nell’ 92–004UN*A Bright clean leaves not overly abundant, but persistent fruit

I. × koehneana 'Ajax' 2007–157*ANice, large leaves, evenly colored

I. coronata × *leucolada* Prolific fruit bearers

Joshua Coceano Horticulturist