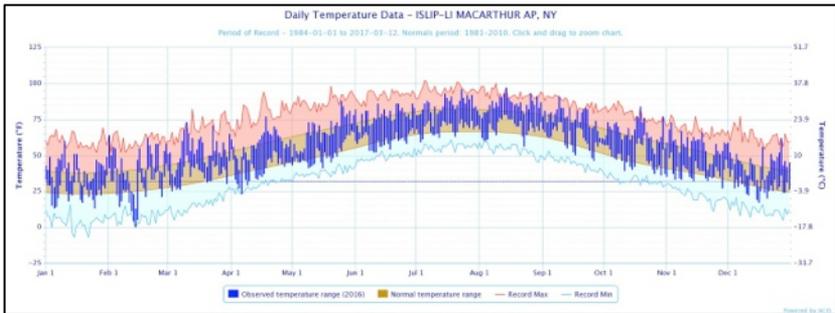
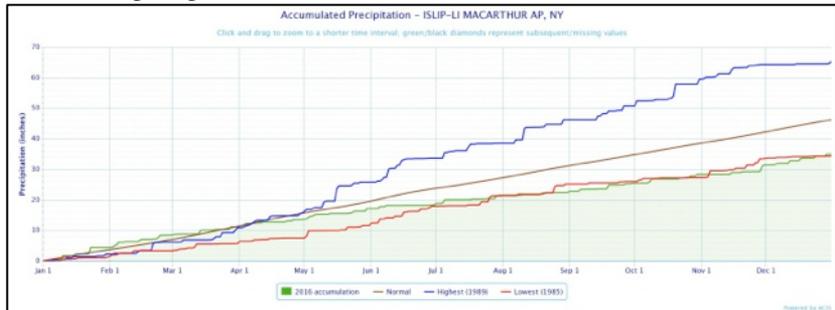


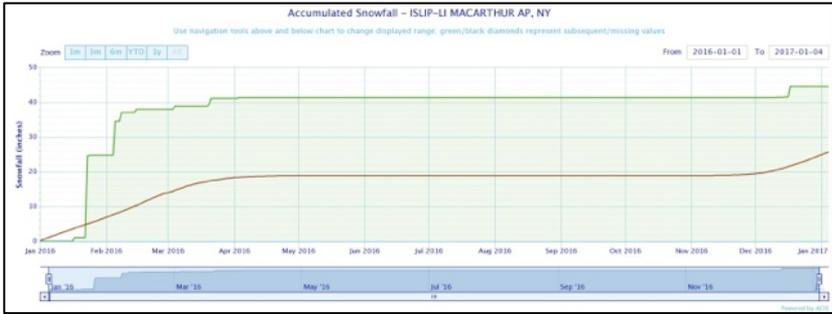
BAYARD CUTTING ARBORETUM  
Great River, NY USDA Hardiness Zone 7a

Over the course of winter 2016 we experienced extreme temperature fluctuations, and above average snowfall totals for our area. On February 1 we set a record high with temperatures reaching 64 °F (17.7 °C), and then just two weeks later we set the record low at 0 °F (-17.7 °C). Over the first three months of the year we received 40" (101.6 cm) of snow. While this is a significant decrease from the 61" (154.9 cm) we received in 2015, it is still 22" (55.9 cm) above average. Despite the harsh weather, our collection came through winter largely unscathed. We experienced little desiccation injury. However, we did have minor mechanical failure of limbs due to snow load.



Winter gave way to spring, with near normal temperatures slowly increasing. However, we experienced a very dry spring. During the months of April and May we received only 6" (15.2 cm) of rain, which is nearly 3" (7.6 cm) below average. This trend would continue for the remainder of the growing season. We finished 2016 roughly 10" (24.4 cm) below our normal annual precipitation.





While these widely variable weather trends seem to be the new “normal,” we are fortunate the genus *Ilex* is quite adaptable to these conditions. In spite of the abuse Mother Nature put our collection through last year, 2016 was a great year for holly. The dry spring contributed to good pollination and subsequent fruit set. This made for an excellent display of color come fall. *Ilex cornuta* varieties had a particularly good year, as warm autumn temperatures led to vibrant coloration of their berries. Furthermore, the mild winter has lent itself to excellent berry retention, unlike the past two winters when most of the fruit was blasted by the cold.

### Notable Performers

*I. x attenuata* ‘Foster’s No.2’

*I. x attenuata* ‘Savannah’

*I. cornuta* ‘Rotunda’

*I. cornuta* ‘Burford Sport’

*I. opaca* ‘Dan Fenton’

*I. opaca* ‘Satyr Hill’

*I. verticillata* ‘Afterglow’

*I. verticillata* ‘Maryland Beauty’

*I. verticillata* ‘Winter Red’

*I.* ‘Sparkleberry’

Michael Runkel, Landscape Curator

<http://www.bayardcuttingarboretum.com/>