

THE POLLY HILL ARBORETUM

West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts USDA Hardiness Zone 7a

As of the writing of this report in early February 2017, the living collection at the Polly Hill Arboretum includes 86 *Ilex* taxa represented by 169 individual plants. The observations and data on which this report is based were collected by Tim Boland, Executive Director, and Ian Jochems, Arborist/Horticulturist.

The Arboretum experienced a very moderate winter with a minimum temperature of -5.1 °F (-20.6 °C) recorded on January 15. We did not have extreme snowfall or winds and, as a result, sustained little structural damage to our trees. Total rainfall was below average for the year, with a very dry June and August. October brought much needed relief with rainfall 2" (5.08 cm) above average. Total yearly precipitation was 33" (83.8 cm). Average annual rainfall for West Tisbury is 45" (114.3 cm).

Table 1: Temperature and precipitation summaries for 2016

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly mean temperature</u>	<u>Monthly precipitation</u>
January	35 °F (1.4 °C)	2.57" (65.5 mm)
February	36 °F (2.0 °C)	4.01" (101.1 mm)
March	42 °F (5.8 °C)	2.85" (72.3 mm)
April	46 °F (7.8 °C)	3.89" (98.8 mm)
May	56 °F (13.5 °C)	2.83" (71.8 mm)
June	65 °F (18.2 °C)	0.58" (14.9 mm)
July	73 °F (22.5 °C)	3.30" (83.8 mm)
August	71 °F (21.4 °C)	0.51" (12.9 mm)
September	66 °F (18.9 °C)	3.30" (83.8 mm)
October	56 °F (13.3 °C)	5.72" (145.3 mm)
November	47 °F (8.8 °C)	2.72" (69.0 mm)
December	40 °F (4.4 °C)	1.26" (32.0 mm)
2016 Total		33.17" (842.5 mm)

Only one holly was deaccessioned and removed from the collection this year: *Ilex crenata* 'Schwoebel's Upright'. It was the only one represented in the collection. The plants were removed due to overcrowding and disfiguration caused by being too close to a building. This was a poor site

with limited space. A redesign of the whole area is underway. This plant was not removed due to lack of winter hardiness or climactic adaptability.

2016 HSA Holly of the Year – *I. opaca* 'Maryland Dwarf'

The Living Collection of the Polly Hill Arboretum does not yet contain 'Maryland Dwarf'.

Timothy Boland, Executive Director tim@pollyhillarboretum.org

Ian Jochems, Arborist/Horticulturist ian@pollyhillarboretum.org