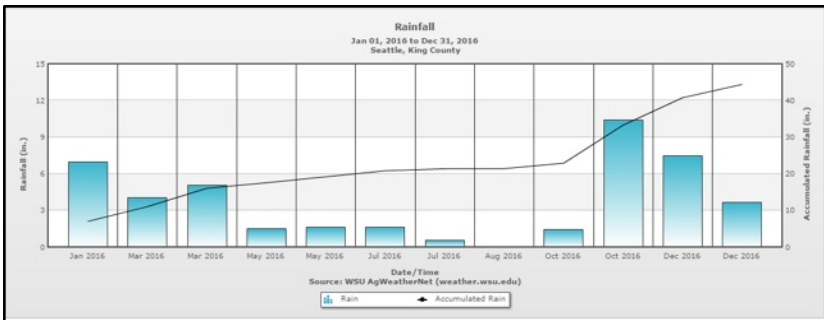
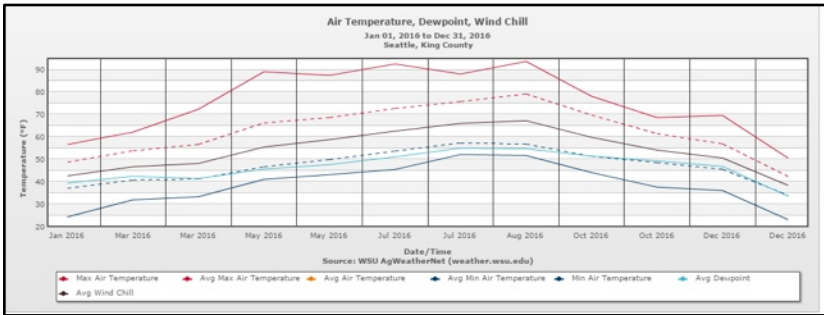


# UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOTANIC GARDENS

Seattle, WA USDA Hardiness Zone 8a

In 2016 the *Ilex* Collection featured a number of changes that will improve the collection and visitor access to it in coming years.

Weather-wise we had a warmer than average year, but not as hot as 2014 or 2015. Summer began early as spring temperatures were warmer than usual. We had less precipitation in the summer, but more in the fall, with October being particularly wet.



I did not irrigate entire beds, only newer individual plants, and did not observe widespread plant evidence of drought stress. This leads me to believe that most of the plants that were moved during the construction of the new *Ilex* collection area have established.

In 2016 we planted 20 deciduous conifers along the west and southwest portions of the main *Ilex* Collection site. These represented 8 different varieties from 5 genera. It is hoped that these will, in time, add an attractive backdrop to the collection and help absorb some of the groundwater in the area. As part of this project invasive plants were removed and some weedy tree species were eliminated. This has resulted in a better aesthetic condition and a more welcoming collection area.

Seeps and drainage issues remain in portions of the site, but overall the collection is doing well. Some species were transplanted to drier sites.

In 2016 the Arboretum's monthly highlight maps were updated. They prominently feature the Holly Collection during their season of most ornamental interest, and these are popular at the Visitors Center and are also available for download at our website.

Trails have been improved in the main collection area by the city parks department over the last two years, and we anticipate more visitors will view the collection once the nearby Arboretum Loop Trail is complete in late 2017. As part of that project a new bridge crossing over Arboretum Creek has been installed that will make the *Ilex* Collection much more accessible from the main portion of the Arboretum.

Additionally, we will be planting more wild origin *I. yunnanensis* and *I. aff. fargesii* along the portions of the new Loop Trail that traverse the site of the future Emei Shan, China Forest in our Pacific Connections Garden. That area should be planted in autumn 2017.

In 2017 we are planning to add another berm, focusing species in the North American/Asian clade. This will allow us to transplant additional mature specimens from our field nursery to the collection.

Ongoing manual and chemical weed control for herbaceous weeds in the clade beds and the upper beds continued. The adjacent wooded area was cleared of many invasive plants.

Some plants are exhibiting evidence of Holly blight (*Phytophthora ilicis*) infection. The presence of this disease has not been confirmed by laboratory tests, but if it is seen this year we will sample and test it. Damage from disease was minor this year, possibly due to reduced irrigation.

The *Ilex* collection continues to be a site for volunteer groups and organizations to assist in maintenance efforts. The collection again was a focus of a major Earth Day project in 2016 in conjunction with the Student Conservation Association (SCA).

No new plants were added to the collection in 2016.

2016 List of *Ilex* deaccessions (including nursery, grounds and gardens):

<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Taxon</u>	<u>Grid</u>	<u>Location</u>
35-08-Z	<i>Ilex canariensis</i> (2)	NA	Container Nursery
327-94-C	<i>I. collina</i>	10-3W	<i>I.</i> Deciduous Clade
96-91-C	<i>I. geniculata</i>	10-3W	<i>I.</i> Deciduous Clade
352-94-A	<i>I. georgei</i>	17-6W	<i>I.</i> Eurasian Clade
75-96-A	<i>I. macropoda</i>	11-4W	<i>I.</i> Interlaken bed
51-91-A	<i>I. verticillata</i> ‘Sunset’	12-3E	North of Lookout
51-91-C	<i>I. verticillata</i> ‘Sunset’	12-3E	North of Lookout

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<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/>