

THE MORRIS ARBORETUM OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia, PA USDA Hardiness Zone 6

The most outstanding weather information for the past year was a very hot and dry summer. This weather pattern seems to be the norm the past few years and poses a challenge in trying to keep alive our newly planted hollies. Our old established plants do not appear to be bothered by this summer weather.

As of 31 December 2017, we have 178 taxa of *Ilex* planted in our collection. A complete list of our holly taxa is attached.

In 2017, we planted 62 plants of 12 taxa, two of which were new (*) to our collection (one plant each unless noted):

- I. × altaclerensis* 'Moorei'
- I. crenata* 'Repandens' (3 plants)
- I. glabra* 'Compacta' (13 plants)
- I. glabra* 'Densa' (2 plants)
- I. glabra* 'Shamrock' (21 plants)
- I. leucoclada* × *cornuta*
- I. × meserveae* 'Blue Prince' (3 plants)
- I.* (NYBG No. 2)
- I.* 'Sais'*

- I. sugerokii**
- I. verticillata* (11 plants)
- I. verticillata* 'Red Sprite' (3 plants)

In 2017, we lost 10 plants of 9 taxa, five of which lost (**) from our collection during (one plant of each unless noted):

- I. × altaclerensis* 'Cherryberry'**
- I. aquifolium* (Balkan female)
- I. aquifolium* 'Green Plane'**
- I. aquifolium* 'Ovata'
- I.* 'Centennial Girl'**
- I. × koehneana* 'Chieftain'
- I. × meserveae* 'Blue Princess'**
- I. serrata* 'Longwood Firefall'**
- I. verticillata* (2 plants)

The late summer and early fall of 2017 was an exceptionally good year for fruit production on our deciduous hollies. In particular we noted excellent fruit production on the following:

- I. verticillata* (several plants)

- I. verticillata* ‘Afterglow’
- I. verticillata* ‘Maryland Beauty’
- I. verticillata* ‘Oosterwijk’
- I. verticillata* ‘Red Sprite’
- I. verticillata* ‘Scarlett O’Hara’
- I. verticillata* ‘Sunset’
- I. verticillata* ‘Winter Gold’
- I. verticillata* ‘Winter Red’

We continue our major project to review and propagate the hollies in the core of our collection, known as the Holly Slope. The main goal of this project is to perform an assessment to determine if any hollies on the slope are unusual, special, or rarely present in other major holly collections nearby, and to propagate those hollies with the eventual intention of offering specimens to other gardens and arboreta. This was completed through correspondence with the staff at the institutions that house these major holly collections. Furthermore, this project will set the stage for determining what holly plants can be removed to reduce crowding to revitalize the collection. Propagation of these plants by cuttings was undertaken in the winter of 2013–2014. During 2017 we made 59 *Ilex* shipments to five different recipients. These included 27 taxa and 75 plants.

We have the following Holly of the Year plants:

- 2004 *I. crenata* ‘Sky Pencil’ – Leggy, very poor, thin foliage.
- 2005 *I. × koehneana* ‘Lassie’ – one plant has good form and lots of fruit; one plant is small but doing well
- 2008 *I. verticillata* ‘Maryland Beauty’ – excellent fruit.
- 2010 *I. verticillata* ‘Red Sprite’ – most plants with excellent fruit set
- 2013 *I. pedunculosa* – one plant looks good, dull green foliage / another plant looks good but with somewhat chlorotic foliage
- 2014 *I. × meserveae* ‘Mesgolg’ Golden Girl – looks good; excellent foliage
- 2017 *I. glabra* – looks good, leaves look a little yellowed/chlorotic; no fruit left at this time

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