

THE MORRIS ARBORETUM

Philadelphia, PA (Hardiness Zone 6)

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The winter of 2009 was relatively normal, although February was milder than usual. The most outstanding weather of 2009 was characterized by an extremely wet year, with 36.5 inches of rain from April through October compared with a normal average of 25.5 for this period. In August alone we received over 10 inches of rain. These conditions did not affect the health of our holly collection. As always, we were impressed by the resiliency of our hollies.

As of 31 December 2008, we have 167 taxa of *Ilex* planted in our collection

In 2009, we planted 39 plants of 13 taxa, seven of which were new (*) to our collection. These are:

- **Ilex aquifolium* 'Angustifolia'
- Ilex crenata*
- **Ilex crenata* 'Snowflake'
- Ilex glabra* 'Densa'
- **Ilex glabra* 'Nigra'
- **Ilex integra*
- **Ilex leucoclada*
- Ilex macropoda*
- **Ilex purpurea*
- Ilex verticillata* 'Jim Dandy'
- **Ilex verticillata* (male)
- Ilex verticillata* 'Southern Gentleman'
- Ilex verticillata* 'Winter Red'

We lost 16 plants from our collection (7 taxa, 1 taxon lost (**)) from the collection):

- Ilex* × *altaclerensis*
- Ilex* × *koebneana* 'H. Hohman'
- Ilex opaca*
- Ilex opaca* 'Morris Arboretum'
- ***Ilex shennongjiaensis*
- Ilex verticillata*
- Ilex yunnanensis*

Several hollies are noteworthy this year because of fruit-set and/or foliage quality, their rarity, or because of cold-hardiness. These include:

- Ilex* 'Dapat' (Miss Patricia™) 2004-052*A - highly lustrous foliage
- Ilex* 'Doctor Kassab' 88-157*A - heavy fruit set
- Ilex koebneana* 'Lassie' 2007-010*A - denser branching structure than other cultivars on site

<i>Ilex</i> 'Lydia Morris'	98-181*A - dark, but still bright fruit with heavy fruit set
<i>Ilex opaca</i> 'Fay'	49-844*A - large fruit with heavy fruit set
<i>Ilex opaca</i> 'Jersey Princess'	84-188*D - excellent dark green foliage; heavy fruit set
<i>Ilex opaca</i> 'Big Red'	50-005*A - excellent heavy fruit set
<i>Ilex</i> 'Rutzan' (Red Beauty®)	2006-040*C - dense shape and slow growth good for landscape use
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Winter Gold'	2002-136*B-F - heavy set of persistent orange fruits

HOLLY-OF-THE-YEAR

We do not have *Ilex opaca* 'Satyr Hill', *Ilex attenuata* 'Sunny Foster', *Ilex aquifolium* 'Lewis' or *Ilex* 'Scepter'.

Ilex crenata 'Sky Pencil' – we have one plant; it does not look good due to poor siting.

Ilex × *koehneana* 'Lassie'- we have one plant which has a very nice structure with dense lower branching and good fruit set.

Ilex verticillata 'Maryland Beauty' – we have two plants; they have a good shape and densely branched structure and excellent fruit set but these are eaten early by the birds.

Ilex verticillata "Red Sprite" –we have several mass plantings; they have good growth and they fruit well, but are stripped early in the season by birds.

Anthony Aiello, Curator and Director of Horticulture
Elinor I. Goff, Plant Recorder