

# ARBORETUM DES PRES DES CULANDS

## CONSERVATOIRE NATIONAL D'ILEX

La Nivelle- 45130 Meung Sur Loire, France

### 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

February was cold, with temperatures ranging from -10° C.(14° F.) to -15° C.(5 ° F.). Spring was mild, and summer was dry, but became humid toward the end. Autumn was mild, which permitted a good fruit set in the hollies. It was the first year that we had so much fruit on these shrubs and trees. December was cold and snowy, reaching -10 ° C. (14 ° F.).

We did not acquire any new hollies in 2009.

*Ilex decidua* 'Winter Red' had very good growth this year, with beautiful shoots of 20 to 30 cm, (7.8 in. to 11.7 in.) and good fruit production.

The arboretum has an area of 2 hectares( 4.8 acres )open for visitors. It is maintained naturally without chemical treatment or chemical nutrients, respecting nature. We amend it yearly with a variety of leafy compost or long-lasting, varied barks which we apply in March. We mulch the soil regularly to maintain moisture, inhibit weeds, and to add humus.

As we cannot attend the Annual Meeting each year, we would be happy to receive new *Ilex* ( we would assume the expense), or to be informed of cutting producers who could trade with France.

Following is the performance of some of the hollies which we have in the Arboretum :

<i>Ilex crenata</i> 'Sky Pencil'	Grows very slowly
<i>Ilex x koehneana</i> 'Lassie'	Good growth
<i>Ilex x koehneana</i> 'Ajax'	Very fruitful, and holds its fruit a long time.
<i>Ilex x attenuata</i> 'Sunny Foster'	Very interesting for its colored foliage.

Pierre Paris  
Conservateur