

TYLER ARBORETUM

Media, PA (USDA Hardiness Zone 6)

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2009 was unusual for its cool and wet summer. The summer season was characterized by cooler temperatures and a few days above 90 F. It was also distinguished by the ample and regular rainfall. Summer precipitation occurred at well-timed intervals throughout the summer. As a result, we did not experience any drought during July – September. In fact, most gardens did not use any form of additional irrigation in 2009.

On December 20th, Tyler Arboretum received approximately 23.2 inches of snow. This snow fall, measured in a single day, guaranteed that the snowfall total for the winter of 2009-10 would surpass the region's annual average, about 20". It was also the second largest snowfall recorded for the region dating back to 1884. Interestingly, the storm marked the first time that the Philadelphia region had received a season's worth of snow before winter actually started. Fortunately, the snowfall did no noticeable damage to the holly collection.

No *Ilex* taxa were added to the collection in 2009.

No *Ilex* taxa died, or were removed from the collection in 2009.

Total number of *Ilex* accessions = 521

Total number of *Ilex* taxa = 151

Ilex verticillata 'Winter Red' continues to be an excellent plant holding fruit long into the winter.

The *Ilex* collection grows well at Tyler Arboretum and receives regular maintenance, but it does not receive much public or research oriented attention.

Hollies of the Year at Tyler Arboretum

2003: *Ilex opaca* 'Satyr Hill' – Good plant; great fruit set; particularly good foliage without any signs of leaf miner

2004: *Ilex crenata* 'Sky Pencil' – not present in the collection

2005: *Ilex koehneana* 'Lassie' – Excellent plant with branches and foliage to the ground; handsome, medium green, glossy foliage; excellent fruit; no winterkill, die-back or foliar burn.

- 2006: *Ilex attenuate* ‘**Sunny Foster**’ – Tyler’s specimens have lost their variegation; therefore, they are no long true to type. All-green plants did experience extensive leaf burn and stem die-back where exposed to winter sun.
- 2007: *Ilex aquifolium* ‘**Lewis**’ – Excellent pyramidal form with branches and foliage to the ground; handsome dark green foliage; not bountiful fruit; no winterkill, die-back or foliar burn.
- 2008: *Ilex verticillata* ‘**Maryland Beauty**’ – not present in the collection
- 2009: *Ilex* ‘**Scepter**’ – not present in the collection
- 2010 *Ilex verticillata* ‘**Red Sprite**’ – Tyler’s plants are naturalized in a semi-wild area of the garden. Their compact form and heavy berry set is still appreciated.

Robert Herald
Plant Recorder