

Holly Care and Pruning

Hollies include a large number of evergreen and deciduous shrubs and trees grown for their attractive foliage and brightly colored berries. Size ranges from 2 to 40 feet tall and wide, depending on the type. They are popular because they are evergreen and provide all season interest. Most berry-producing hollies require at least one male plant to pollinate up to 20 or more female plants.

Hollies prefer a site with slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil. They can be grown in full sun to light shade, with some varieties doing well in full shade. They are moderately fast growing.

- * American holly is a broad, pyramidal tree with dull, olive-green leaves. Most varieties have spiny leaves and red berries.
- * English holly has glossy foliage and several of its forms have variegated leaves. They produce red or yellow berries.
- * Chinese holly has glossy foliage and large, red berries. It may have sharply-spined leaves or a spineless leaved form. Most popular is the Burford holly.
- * Japanese holly has small leaves and resembles the boxwood. It has no berries, and is a popular landscaping plant. Varieties include Helleri, Steeds, Sky Pencil, Hoogendorn, and Soft Touch.
- * Blue holly is dense and vigorous, with glossy blue-green leaves and glossy red fruit. Hybrids include Dragon lady, Blue Prince, Blue Princess, China Boy, and China Girl.
- * Miscellaneous evergreen hollies include the native black-fruited Inkberry, which is the hardiest of all evergreen varieties, and Foster's holly, a hybrid that can be used as a hedge or tree.
- * Deciduous holly loses its leaves in winter, but is popular because of its colorful berries. The Winterberry normally grows in swamplands, but will adapt itself to garden soils.

Pruning is necessary only if you want to restrict your holly to a certain shape or size, or if you are growing a hedge. Shaping can be accomplished by removing the tips of the current season's growth during late summer, fall, or winter. To rejuvenate a holly, cut back the branches by one-half to three-quarters of their length in late winter. In spring, the plant will flush out from all the pruning cuts with new foliage.

WASHINGTON, DC
4200 Wisconsin Ave, NW
at Van Ness St

www.johnsonsfloorists.com
KENSINGTON, MD
10313 Kensington Pkwy
next to the Post Office

OLNEY, MD
5011 Olney-Laytonsville Rd
Rt 108 and Zion Rd

