



Winterberry Holly


Winterberry is a popular native shrub used to decorate our winter landscapes, window boxes and Christmas centerpieces. There are many cultivars of Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*). This type of holly drops its leaves in autumn and provides striking red, orange or gold fruit creating a beautiful winter backdrop. Many varieties are cold tolerant down to USDA zone 3 and grow well in large areas of North America and Eastern Canada. They prefer to have ample soil moisture, which is why we often see native plants growing in wet fields and at the edges of streams and ponds.

Winterberry varieties are dioecious, meaning the flowers each variety bears are either male or female, and both need to be present for the female varieties to bear fruit. Male hollies will not develop fruit. For best fruit set, plant 1 male for every 5 female plants and have them within approximately 50' or less of each other.

Troubleshooting: If your plant doesn't produce fruit, there are several possible causes. If they are newly planted shrubs, they may have been putting more energy into developing their root system and their flowering period may have been off for this season. Give your new plants 2-3 years to produce well. If there is a drought during their flowering period, they may produce less. Provide ample moisture for your plants if we are not receiving enough moisture naturally. If they are in heavy shade, they may produce less. Provide at least 4 hours of direct sun, 6+ hours is ideal for flowering and fruiting. Make sure that you have both a male and female variety present, which have an overlapping flowering period. Winterberry hollies produce fruit on old wood, so if you prune them heavily to use as decoration, they may need a season to regenerate. Try to selectively cut them for decorating, and plant varieties that can grow to their full potential in the space provided.





	Pollen Source													
	Berry Heavy (F)	Berry Nice (F)	Berry Poppins (F)	Little Goblin (F)	Red Sprite (F)	Sparkleberry (F)	Winter Gold (F)	Winter Red (F)	Apollo (M)	Jim Dandy (M)	Little Goblin (M)	Mr. Poppins (M)	Southern Gentleman (M)	
Berry Heavy (F)										✱	✱	✱		
Berry Nice (F)										✱	✱	✱		
Berry Poppins (F)										✱	✱	✱		
Little Goblin (F)										✱	✱	✱		
Red Sprite (F)										✱	✱	✱		
Sparkleberry (F)									✱				✱	
Winter Gold (F)									✱				✱	
Winter Red (F)									✱				✱	
Apollo (M)														
Jim Dandy (M)														
Little Goblin (M)														
Mr. Poppins (M)														
Southern Gentleman (M)														
	✱	will pollinate												



will pollinate

