

Ilex aquifolium

COMMON NAME

holly

FAMILY

Aquifoliaceae

AUTHORITY

Ilex aquifolium L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ILEAQU

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

FEATURES

An evergreen much branched shrub or small tree to 12 m tall. Leaves (3-10cm long) alternate along the stem, and are dark glossy green above, paler below, with the characteristic undulating, thick, usually deeply serrate margins, with a spine at the point. Flowers occur as clusters, with 4 white petals (3-5mm long). Conspicuous bright red spherical berries develop in the winter.

FLOWERING

October, November

FLOWER COLOURS

White

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial

YEAR NATURALISED

1901

ORIGIN

W., C., and S. Europe, W. Asia, N.W. Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

ETYMOLOGY

ilex: An old Latin name for the Holm oak, which holly allegedly resembles

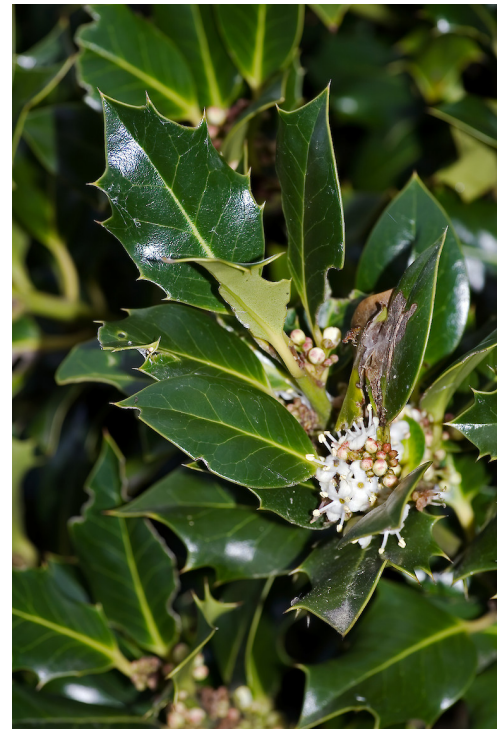
POISONOUS PLANT

Most parts of this plant are poisonous especially the scarlet red berries.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning*. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

MORE INFORMATION



Whitemans Valley. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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