

Aalto #2 is more on the type of "St. Ann". Even in the wild, the fruit is as large as that of "St. Ann", so I am wondering if it will hold under cultivation. These Aalto trees are exceptional. I am surprised to learn that the cuttings rooted so soon, and this should give the plants a fine start for next season. I suppose you pot in earthen pots first.

The 2,000 cuttings, most of which were put in before October 10th, look fine so far; we had no cold weather before that date. I often wonder how the cuttings stand the hot weather of early September.

As for young plants for Christmas sale - I have been talking to some of the Boston florists about hollies. They seem to think that if they had small, well-fruited plants there would be a good sale for them. Could I help you with sale of these? Could they be shipped so far in good condition? How would they be potted? What would you have to get for them? I had many inquiries at the flower show last year and again this year, but not having any plants, I could not follow through.

I had a very nice exhibit at the November show which attracted a lot of attention. If it were not for the war, we would not be able to take care of all the holly orders.

Wilfred Wheeler

December 13, 1942

We are in the midst of the coldest and snowiest Christmas we have ever had on the Cape, not at all like the usual December weather. I was planning to harvest quite a crop of holly branches from some trees which I bought over a year ago and which have a wonderful crop of berries, but we cannot get near them. I find that with careful cutting the trees can be made shapely. Most of these trees had been badly cut around the bottom and the tops were overloaded with branches so that it is a real improvement to cut them back.

I have been conducting a test with one of the experimental stations and find that apparently it does not make so much difference in the season of making the cuttings as

it does in the hormone used and the amount of heat applied to the bed underneath. A batch of cuttings from "St. Ann", which were put in the medium on November 13th, had roots eight inches long in only four weeks, and this is the most difficult tree to root. I shall be able to tell you more about this later.

I am much disturbed about one of the holly sections where there are some very fine trees. The owner has decided to clear a part of it for pasture. This means he will remove some of the largest trees. It makes me ill to think of these beautiful trees being destroyed - but we can't get labor to move them. I suppose with all the destruction going on in the world, the loss of a tree should not be mourned too much.

Wilfred Wheeler

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March 6, 1943

On returning to the farm after spending a couple of months near Boston, I found that the cuttings have not done very well - these are the ones I put in last fall. I am afraid that they were not warm enough, since we were running the greenhouse quite low. I am sure that hollies do better in the winter when the sand is about 70°. I am doubtful whether it will be advisable to run the farm this season, for all the help which I have had in the past has gone to the factories or to other high-paying jobs and I am reduced to one man who has been here for 15 years. Charles may be here this summer before he goes into the Army, but that rests with the draft board. Dick is deferred till summer, but he may be taken before then. I cannot understand why the farmer has not been considered in all this muddle, but I am afraid that this would be asking too much of the men in Washington.

I have been hoping that the ground would thaw early this spring, because I have several orders for good-sized hollies from the woods, and I wanted to move them before our spring work started. I have never seen so much fruit on the trees as they had last fall; some trees were actually bent over with the weight of the fruit. Most of the