

December 8, 1939

I do wish you could see the Wilson tress now. I have shown them to several people and all are enthused with the possibilities of holly on the Cape.

I have just received some fruit from I. altaclarensis and, while it is heavy, the color is not so good as that of our best I. opaca.

I am making some new beds for the hollies which I am going to plant in the spring. The beds are being prepared three feet deep and four feet across for each tree. I am using oak leaves and leafmold from an oak forest. I find that this is the best fertilizer for holly.

Wilfred Wheeler

December 17, 1939

I am sending you a few sprays from a holly tree I came upon in the woods. The tree is so overgrown with other trees that it has little chance to show what it can do under good growing conditions. But I was struck by the rather small leaf and the compact habit of the branches. The color of the fruit is not so good as I should wish, but I believe that this is due to complete shade. I can get an abundance of cuttings from this tree, so please let me know what you think of its possibilities.

Wilfred Wheeler

December 21, 1939

The holly cuttings described in your letter of December 17th have just come. I think they are beautiful. I should like to have as many cuttings from this tree as you can send, and I shall be glad to receive more of the Wilson cuttings as soon after Christmas as you find it convenient to get them.

About ten days ago all leaves were found to have dropped from the cuttings of I. aquifolium, but the other cuttings are in excellent condition.

What name would you like to have me give this new group of holly cuttings? I like the quality of the leaf so much.

Elizabeth C. White

January 5, 1940

I cannot recall such a long spell of cold weather at this time of year. This is the fourteenth day without a let-up, and it has not thawed once during this period--rather a record for our section. I had planned to send you the holly cuttings the day after Christmas, but it was far too cold, and only today have I been able to get them. I am sending you a box with quite a lot of cuttings from the tree in West Barnstable--they are the same as the sample sent to you before Christmas. I suggest calling the group, for the present, Cape Cod #1. I think it would be a good idea to name them for locations rather than for persons. We might call the Wilson hollies #2 and #3, or perhaps Cape Cod - Wilson until we think of a better name, and use #1 for the Allen tree.

I have located several other good trees, but as they have no berries on them this year, I shall have to wait to determine their sex.

I have received several letters from Mr. Dilatash, and he is certainly a holly fan. I am so glad that people are becoming seriously interested in holly, for I feared at one time that holly might be doomed to destruction. I suppose you have seen this booklet; on the whole, it is good, but I do not agree with his range for growing holly. Little does he realize that Bangor, Maine, often has temperatures as low as 40° to 50° below zero. And I have been in Plymouth, N. H., when it was 40° below.