

realized this yet.

The color on the hollies may not be too good. Since the autumn has been warm, there is little fall coloring.

Wilfred Wheeler

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November 3, 1941

Pauline and I finished a most satisfactory trip when we reached Whitesbog last Wednesday about half after five. We felt we had been soaked in most glorious autumn color all the way, but for me the high spot was the day we spent hunting holly on the Cape. The "Dorothy" cuttings were all neatly made and set before I got home, but the Winton twins, who have done all the holly cutting work here for the past three years, count them quite inferior to the Wilson cuttings which they made last year. Well, time will tell.

I thought the quality of the abused, little, roadside tree was very good. We could hardly expect the quality of the leaves to compare to advantage with those of the Wilson trees which have had protection and no doubt feeding. When they are in nursery rows side by side, we shall know better.

Last Thursday we made a trip to Cape May Court House. Nearby a Mr. Davis has a considerable farm on which he grows fine holly. We brought back small quantities of cuttings from six trees which seemed worth trying. However, I am doubtful of the hardiness of the trees from that locality.

Yesterday, when I took Pauline to Philadelphia to board the bus back to her nursing job, I had an opportunity to visit the Criscom tree. It is just as heavily loaded with berries as it was last year. The foliage on the sunny side is a much better color as a result of feeding with Bartlett Tree Food, and the several small cavities have been expertly filled. I encouraged Mr. Criscom to feed the tree again this fall. This care, I think, will prolong its life and vigor for many years.

The cuttings you can send me from the newly selected trees and those from the Wilson trees are awaited with much interest. They will complete our cutting program for the year. Two years from now, the Wilson plants, which I now have, should be large enough to supply cuttings; but it is a great advantage to have a few coming on each year when the high quality of the original tree is so certain.

When you are ready, I shall send you five or more of each of the promising selections of New Jersey holly.

Elizabeth C. White

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November 8, 1941

This week I have been very busy arranging an exhibit of hollies for the fall flower show in Boston. I was fortunate in having some nice plants, and the exhibit went off very well. I used many small plants and showed methods of propagation so that people would understand that hollies can be grown here as well as in the south.

It has been interesting to listen to the comments of people who did not know that holly is hardy here. And so few have ever seen holly growing! Emily and Charles set up the exhibit which was a woodland scene with hollies growing among other trees. It was quite a family affair!

I hope to get the cuttings on their way to you this coming week and shall include some of the various trees we saw, as well as of the Wilson hollies, "St. Mary" and "Wilson". As I understand it, "St. Mary" is the former Wilson #1 and "Wilson" is the former Wilson #2. Am I correct?

I heard of a brilliant orange-colored holly and am going to see it tomorrow. If it looks good, I shall send you a sample and also cuttings, if you want them.

There will undoubtedly be quite a demand for hollies this coming spring. I was talking to Alex Canning of Bristol Nurseries. He said they had about 1,000 18" to 24" plants and that they were seedlings. I inquired how he would sell them, if he

did not know the sex, and he seemed rather nonplussed. Evidently, he had not realized that it might create a difficult situation when his customers did not get fruit. Apparently, there is no real stock of selected plants in the Northeast. Some of the nurserymen, I think, are buying from the South. I just saw an adv. in the American Nurseryman for grafted hollies from Massachusetts hardy stock, so some are looking to the North.

I may have to call on you for plants in the spring, since my stock is limited. So far, I have sold only collected plants which I have marked for good qualities. It may be necessary to send a truck to Whitesbog for a load. You might be thinking of this and of a price for at least 200 plants. I should be glad to get some of the special ones, as I want to get special plants started in a collection of the various types. I shall sell off the more or less inferior types and keep the better ones.

Wilfred Wheeler

November 17, 1941

Your account of the exhibition of hollies is most interesting. All such educational efforts are helpful in promoting the cause of better holly.

You have the naming of the two Wilson hollies as I understand it, and I have changed the labeling of our one- and two-year-old plants accordingly.

Besides the "St. Mary" and "Wilson" plants, we have plants from cuttings you sent last year, marked Wheeler #1 and #11, and Allen. You showed me the Allen tree, wind-tortured at the corner of a farm house; but I have nothing with which to connect the two lots marked Wheeler.

I have adopted the policy of writing on the labels, in addition to the name of the holly, the name of the person from whom it was obtained. Thus, the name Wheeler is written small on the "St. Mary" and "Wilson" labels, and the name Davis on all those secured from the Davis farm in Cape May County.