

the finest contributions to conservation. So many people will plant these lovely trees in their gardens, if they can be assured of getting a fine type which can be moved with comparative ease.

While there has been a break in my work so that I have no holly trees of any considerable size at the present time, I think that you would find a great deal of interest at Whitesbog even at this time of year.

Elizabeth C. White

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January 4, 1939

I am sending a small branch of a holly which has been under cultivation for the past ten years. The tree was taken from the woods when it was about eight feet tall and moved to a good location; it is now about twenty feet tall with a spread of almost the same dimension. I find that good cultivation does more for holly than anything else -- the fruit and leaves will be increased in size. This tree and others have been fertilized mostly with manure.

You are wise in sticking to the hardy hollies. I feel sure, however, that a great deal can be done with some of the other hardy species such as I. monticola, I. serrata, and even I. verticillata. The latter, I believe, can be greatly improved by selection and breeding as well as by proper cultivation.

Wilfred Wheeler

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January 18, 1939

I decided not to send you the rather sad-looking branch of holly. But since I was near the trees today, I cut a spray from each of three types. These trees were moved from the woods about ten years ago and are now about eighteen feet high; all

are very well-berried this season. One of the trees (#2) has an open habit and the fruit is more or less spaced along the branches. No. 1, which is inclined to bunch closely has the same bright scarlet fruit that #2 has. No. 3 is a good-growing tree, but the fruit is of poor color and the leaves are inclined to be rather yellow. All three trees have been treated alike in feeding and are in partial shade.

Wilfred Wheeler

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January 21, 1939

Anyone who has not raised holly from cuttings, taken from various trees, and seen the plants from each tree lined out in nursery rows under identical conditions of feeding and culture, may form a very inaccurate idea of how inherent the differences of seedling trees, which, of course, include all wild ones, are in the stock trees.

I should say that your No. 3 is not worth bothering with. The foliage is poor, and the berries are of too dark red for the color to carry. No. 1 and No. 2, however, seem to me to be rarely beautiful, with good foliage and heavy fruiting of very large, bright scarlet berries.

I have considerable knowledge of the way stocks from different trees vary, and have a large number of cuttings in various stages in the process of rooting. The area occupied by these cuttings, which are closely set, is more than 100 feet long and 2 1/2 feet wide. I should like to add cuttings from your No. 1 and No. 2 trees to our stock.

Will you quote me a price per hundred on cuttings from these two trees, taken from well-ripened wood of next summer's growth, say from the first of September to the middle of October, or even the first of November? First-class cuttings should be four to six inches long and of sturdy growth. I should like to have them with a heel,

if convenient, but do not count this as essential.

Apart from their appearance, I am interested in these hollies because they are from Massachusetts. So far as I am aware there has been no extensive collecting of holly varieties except what I have done here in New Jersey and what was done a considerable number of years ago by Dr. Hume of the Glen St. Mary's Nursery in Florida. The Hume hollies are being sold to a considerable extent by some nurseries, but it seems to me that they are a poor bet for New England and even for New Jersey.

Elizabeth C. White

January 23, 1939

I am glad that you like holly #1 and #2. I sent #3 only because, in selecting these trees from the woods in the first place, #3 looked very promising. It had much better-colored fruit growing in the wild, but it took a long time to recover from the transplanting. This is the first year that it has really borne a crop. I am hopeful that it may be better next year.

I only wish that I had the resources to devote more time to this fascinating hobby, for I know of many very fine trees which would be as good as #1 and #2 under proper conditions.

As for wood from these trees, I do not believe I can give you much, for I set these trees in a landscape job and they are no longer mine. However, I can get you some cuttings, enough to make a start, and I shall also get you cuttings from some other trees which are equally as good.

I find that the size of fruit is closely related to the soil and feeding, and this is also true of the foliage.

I have moved large hollies, up to eighteen feet, and they have done very well, but I prefer to move smaller ones.

I certainly agree with you that the Florida hollies would not be of much value here. Our trees have withstood a temperature of 20° below zero.

Wilfred Wheeler

February 3, 1939

I can understand how impossible it is for you to send large numbers of cuttings from any holly trees no longer in your possession.

In my work with holly, I have learned that the only way to judge the value of two different stocks is to have rows of plants, produced from cuttings of the different trees, side by side in a nursery in practically identical conditions. Many points besides the beauty of the tree must be considered before we know that a special holly is of great commercial value.

There is a great difference in the ease of rooting cuttings from different trees; and after the cuttings are well rooted and we have nice plants, two to three feet high, we find an enormous difference in the ease of moving these plants. Some stocks move very easily, while others are difficult to induce them to live. In nursery rows under exactly the same conditions, some stocks make a compact root ball, while others have long and stringy roots which make the plants difficult to handle.

Elizabeth C. White

February 25, 1939

I am very much interested in what you say about the way different stocks act in relation to transplanting. I can well understand this, for there does not seem to be anything to go on in relation to hollies; that is, so little work has been done with them, that there are no established rules to follow.