

glossy and the berries set so freely when the plants are very small. It will take two to three years before I can judge how they shape up in nursery rows, but I should expect them to be classed with "Osa" and "Manig".

Elizabeth C. White

August 21, 1943

Thank you for the information about the early cuttings. I have made a few and so far they look well; but I used only sand for the medium, since I feel safer with it than with questionable peat. I am, however, going to try some cuttings in peat.

I am sending you a young plant of the male tree at the Armstrong place. You will recall the tree with the beautiful foliage. The plant is on its own roots and should do well. You can plant it as a permanent male - I'm sure it will make a fine one. I am using this and another male, "E. Thomas". I call the one from the Armstrong place "John Banks" after the gardener who has been there for thirty years.

Wilfred Wheeler

September 8, 1943

Thank you so much for the little holly "John Banks" which arrived safely at Whitesbog after several days sojourn at New Lisbon. It is in perfect condition, and I shall try to secure for it the best of care. I well remember the beautiful tree from which it was propagated on the Armstrong place.

Some years ago you kindly sent me cuttings of the "E. Thomas" tree, but I was not successful in bringing them through. I think it was a slip in our management and not the cuttings.

We have a fine male tree on the place growing near the home of Isaiah Maines, and I am calling it "Isaiah". I have just taken cuttings from this tree, somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,000. I find there is something wrong with all our nursery stock

which I was depending on as males. Many are unproductive pistillate plants.

With the recent horrible train wrecks, it would take a very important matter to entice me far from home this fall.

The news of the unconditional surrender of Italy has just reached us over the radio. Perhaps it may not be too long before I can enjoy one of your melons in the lovely grove above the lake.

Elizabeth C. White

September 21, 1943

The cuttings of the W.W. #1 and #2 male hollies came through in fine shape and were promptly cared for. The foliage is beautiful.

I delayed my acknowledgment until I could send you a copy of the inventory of the holly plants of varieties originating with you. It follows:

"St. Mary"	80 plants set in nursery last May, largest 12" high
"St. Mary"	12 smaller plants to be wintered in greenhouse
Wheeler #1	20 plants set in nursery last May
Wheeler #2	92 plants set in nursery last May
Allen	55 plants set in nursery last May
Aalto #1	1 plant set in nursery last May
Aalto #2	1 plant set in nursery last May
"Emily"	2 plants set in nursery last May
West Barnstable	1 plant set in nursery last May
"Laura Thomas"	60 good-sized plants in 6-inch pots
"Quinn"	34 good-sized plants in 6-inch pots
"Helen Makepeace"	1 good-sized plant in 6-inch pot
"Dorothy"	15 good-sized plants in 6-inch pots
"St. Ann"	45 good-sized plants in 6-inch pots

Quite an imposing list, is it not? I can hardly tell you how much your interest and cooperation in this holly business has meant to me.

Though all the plants of the "St. Mary" holly are yet very small, they seem to be the best I have handled. So many varieties are sprowly when the plants are small, but "St. Mary" shapes up beautifully from the first. A large proportion of these little plants have a good crop of berries and the leaves are so glossy. I have taken

nearly 100 cuttings from these little plants.

"St. Ann" gives a sprawly little plant. I hope to set the 45 plants in the nursery next spring, but doubt if this variety will be worth propagating further.

Wheeler #2 shapes up much better in the nursery than Wheeler #1, and a much larger proportion of the little plants carry berries.

"Griscom", though a very fine holly, does not make so good a nursery plant for sale as a number of others with which I have been working. Of the varieties with which I have had considerable experience, I now consider the best to be "Manig", "Osa", "Delia", "Laura", "Farage", "Mae", and "Susan". Do you have all of these? If not, I shall gladly send you two of each that you do not have.

In the nursery I have one small plant about the same size as the plants of the two Aaltes and of "Emily" which you sent to me last spring. It has the most amazing foliage of any I have seen. I enclose a leaf. The plant is labeled "Richard", but apparently there is no record as to whence it came. I think it is a female, but I am not even sure about this.

We have had no rain since the last week in July, and most of our reservoirs are entirely dry. It is most surprising how well the holly plants on high ground have stood the drought. Many of the larger plants still have such tender growth.

Elizabeth C. White

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September 24, 1943

I am indeed glad to have the list of the plants that you received from me. There are several you do not have, and I shall try to send them to you this fall or in the spring. They are as follows:

"Natale", one of the best I have found. The name is Italian for Christmas.

"Carol", a very nice upright-growing plant with striking fruit; the plant is somewhat on the order of "St. Ann" but better-growing.

Aalto #3, #4, #6, #7, #8, and #9; are above the average and well worth trying.

Lawrence #1, #2, #3, and #4; all bear the largest fruit I have yet found, average over 1/2" in diameter, and of fine color. The old trees have been cut to pieces by vandals; these people always go for the largest and best-colored berries. Of these I have only a few plants, and I may find it necessary to send you rooted cuttings.

I also want you to try more plants of "Helen Makepeace", since this is the nearest in type to "St. Mary" and the fruit is larger and brighter. The original tree is about 30' high and a perfect holly shape. Ninety per cent of the cuttings I have taken from it grow upright and fruit the first year. I may be able to get you some wood, but it is rather short, that is, in growth this year.

I am getting more of "St. Mary" to put in sand by special arrangement with the present owner; but I am not going to propagate more of "St. Ann", because "Carol" is a better tree and roots readily.

I consider "Emily" the best holly I have found and have quite a lot of grafted stock in order to preserve the tree. And it is lucky that I did, for the Army drove a truck over the original this summer and left it in terrible condition. This tree bears very large, bright scarlet berries in great bunches. I believe you once remarked, when I sent you some of its fruit, that you did not see how it could grow any wood.

In Zimmerman's bulletin on the growth of hollies in the nursery, he mentions the sprawly habit and that he has not found a strain which will not grow this way until the third or fourth year when the plant sends up a leader. I wrote Zimmerman that I had a couple of strains which had an upright habit from the cuttings.

The one I do not have of your hollies are "Delia", "Mae", and "Susan". I have about 25 cuttings of "Osa" in sand, and the trees that you sent me are growing wonderfully. I have only one plant of "Griscom", the plant that you brought when you came here three years ago. It is doing well.

Yes, I know about the "Howard" holly. It came from North Carolina and is one that Batchelor got. It is believed to be a hybrid between I. opaca and I. aquifolium.

but little is really known about its origin. Batchelor gave me two plants, one of which I sent to you. Mine made remarkable growth, but was winter-killed two years ago. It is a beautiful plant, and, as you say, has remarkable foliage. I hope you can grow it, for it is a good holly for the South.

Instead of the drought you have had in your section, we had several storms in one week in August that totaled over five inches of rain, and enough rain since then to keep things green. We had our drought in June. There are apparently a number of "holly fans" and when a person really gets the "bug", he writes letters to me every week. I have had considerable correspondence with Mrs. Thacher of Orange, N.J., who knows much about holly. I'm sure with all this interest, holly will now come into its own.

Wilfred Wheeler

December 3, 1943

The little holly plants, which came in fine condition, are now planted in the collection in my holly woods. I thought it was better to plant them this fall than to wait until spring. I have had good luck with fall planting, provided plenty of mulch is used.

I now have quite a collection - some 300 plants all told - in this place, and most of them are either named or numbered varieties. The location seems to suit them, for many have made from one- to two- foot growth this season.

The holly crop is very light; in fact, the trees on the low lands have no berries. The trees on the higher places are loaded with berries but, unfortunately, there are only a few trees on the higher places.

I have been in the woods today and located a few more places where trees are fruiting. One particular spot has some large trees with very fine foliage, but rather dense shade has the berry crop reduced. Now I wish I had a holly orchard to cut! I've had more orders for cut branches this season than ever before and cannot fill them.