

February 29, 1944

Although we are not far from Fort Dix, we are fortunately so located that the Army has not over-run the place seriously. I can well imagine how much you are distressed by the destruction.

I am glad to learn that your holly cuttings rooted so well. Ours, too, have done nicely. Those planted earliest are already potted and their place filled with blueberry cuttings. The cuttings of the two males you sent me were the latest to be put in and have not yet been dug, but they are looking very well.

Elizabeth C. White

\* \* \* \* \*

June 19, 1944

I have very sadly neglected my correspondence, but it has been such a sad and rather gloomy spring on the farm for the past two months since we have hardly had rain enough to lay the dust. However, it looks as though it will rain; I am sure that we shall at least have a shower which will give me courage to continue. All our early seedlings never came up, and so we hope to get in a fall crop now that rain seems assured. At best, farming and anything to do with growing plants outdoors are a gamble. We farmers are the greatest gamblers in the world.

I am wondering how your hollies are doing this spring. I hope you did not have the winter-burn we did. All the very small plants look as though fire had gone over them. Most of them recovered; but then when the new growth was well along, we had a hard freeze which destroyed the new growth. Most of the plants have made a come-back, but there will not be much new growth this season, and so I am wondering about cuttings for this late summer and fall.

I noticed a great difference in the burning; some varieties did not seem to suffer, while others were almost killed. In the whole, most are coming back but, of course, this means a year's loss in growth.

I heard from a New Jersey friend that hollies in that section were badly burned by the winter. Apparently, the burning was not confined here.

Wilfred Wheeler

\*\*\*\*\*

June 29, 1944

Our hollies did not suffer severely from winter burn. I should like to believe that this was because of my selection in such matters in years past, but I cannot be sure. I am sure, however, that such catastrophes do enable a careful plant grower to select varieties which stand up best against the unfortunate circumstances with which he has to contend.

We have had no frosts this spring to damage the cranberries, and I think the same is true of all the hollies, though I have had little time to examine them.

The holly cuttings put in before September 15th rooted very well, and those put in later did fairly well. The cuttings of the two males you sent me rooted exceedingly well; I am particularly glad because I have no really first-class males of my own selection. "Isaiah", which is a truly beautiful plant, is uncertain in rooting, and many of the small plants die before we get them to the field, in spite of the fact that the original tree withstands winter burning and other poor weather conditions very well.

Elizabeth C. White

\*\*\*\*\*

October 7, 1944

I have been thinking about you these last few days, wondering if your area escaped the hurricane. I certainly hope so. If you could see our poor countryside, you would realize what trouble these storms can cause. We escaped the last hurricane, but this one came in all its fury and made a wreck of the woods and trees of the Cape.