

to the birds, for starlings and robins were in flocks on the Island. I am wondering if the so-called everbearing holly is tied up with the bird or mice food question. Two years ago when I went to get branches for Christmas in one of the holly groves at West Barnstable, I found the snow covered with berries. This was the work of red squirrels, for I saw them filling their mouths with berries. If we are to contend with birds in holly growing, this will become a serious problem, particularly if the birds go after the berries before Christmas. Starlings would be the greatest offenders; they like all kinds of fruit. I recall that in another year I saw blue jays in the trees in West Barnstable, and I also saw a cuckoo acting as though he liked the berries. I am watching my trees which have fruited quite carefully this year in order to see what really happens.

Wilfred Wheeler

December 15, 1944

Dr. Pirone writes that he has sent you copies of the minutes of the two meetings of the Holly Research Committee. He sent them also to Harry Dengler, Extension Forester at the University of Maryland and to Mr. O'Rourke at Glendale, Md., who is connected with the U.S.D.A. His specialty is the culture of plants which will check erosion on hillsides and also have some economic value. It was he who told me that Mr. Dengler was interested in forming a committee in Maryland similar to that in New Jersey.

Why should not a similar committee in each holly-producing state of the eastern seaboard, sponsored by a stable agricultural organization, be the very best kind of organization for the promotion of interest in holly? Because of your interest in holly and your connection with agriculture in Massachusetts, I think you are especially fitted to start such an organization in Massachusetts.

With State Committees, I foresee the freest kind of interchange of knowledge and later of meetings.

Elizabeth C. White

December 16, 1944

I am sending you sprays of a holly which I discovered a number of years ago. The owner gave me permission to clean it up - in fact, to remove it - but it was too large to be moved. So I cut down the brush around it, removed the dead wood, and fertilized it with Bartlett Tree Food. Yesterday I saw the tree for the first time in two years and was surprised to find the top covered with fruit, although no other tree on the place has any fruit because of the May frost. The leaves are poor, because of the hurricane and the drought this past summer, and the berries are not as bright as usual, because of the salt spray the hurricane deposited on them. But I want you to note the size of the fruit, the way it is borne, and the general color. I do not care for this type as a landscape tree, as much as I do for "St. Ann" or "St. Mary", but it is a wonder for cut sprays.

Wilfred Wheeler

December 28, 1944

I can make full allowance for the damage to the leaves and imagine how beautiful the leaves and berries must have been under favorable conditions. Your selections of holly are particularly fine, much better than mine have been. For the northern part of the country, I think they are likely to rank in importance with the work Howard Hume did for the Florida hollies.

In consequence of the handicaps under which I have had to make selections, I have come to have a keen appreciation of the opportunity offered in comparing the little trees in nursery rows side by side. Hollies are not easy for nurserymen to handle, and some are more easily handled in the nursery than others. Unless the difficult ones