

have no present and assured market.

If you care to have me try cuttings of the new hollies you have selected, I suggest that they be sent as soon as possible. They should have an extra amount of wet moss about them and extra heavy wrappings of wax paper to compensate for what will probably be a slower journey.

Elizabeth C. White

October 20, 1942

We have practically all the holly cuttings that we shall make this year, unless something special turns up. I believe, however, that I shall take the tops off of approximately 75 "St. Mary" plants and make them into cuttings. I can probably get another 100 plants that way, even though it will delay the development of those I have.

Elizabeth C. White

October 25, 1942

Like many farmers, I am beginning to question the value of running a farm without sufficient help and will no doubt have to curb my efforts to a minimum next season. It makes me feel that I am not doing my share in the war effort, but at my age I cannot do the hard work I used to do. All this seems to curb my activities with other things, such as holly, and I cannot look over the country as formerly. I have heard of new hollies near Rochester, but I am afraid I shall have to pass them up this season. I have had several orders for large plants and hope to get the men later on to move them.

Referring again to the holly that holds its fruit, I hope that the government will not do anything foolish. I have found several others here which still have the old fruit on them, and it is just now turning dark and dropping off. "St. Ann" has this habit to a marked degree. I have been looking over the hollies you sent me, and

the one which shows up best, that is, for a typical holly tree, is "Osa". It has made growth of not less than eight inches, has a fine leaf, and stands above the rest in general characteristics. "Clark" seems, as you wrote, to be a good hedge holly and also "Laura", but this did not thrive as well as the others. All the plants of "Criscom" died; it is apparently difficult to move them with bare roots. "Manig" is also a fine one and appears to be doing well. On the whole, the season has been good for holly growth; while there is not as much fruit as usual, the growth is better.

I have put in about 2,000 cuttings, mostly from trees which I found with Batchelor last year and which showed up well at the time. One of these I have named "Emily", and I am sending you a couple of plants which have been grafted by a friend. I know you do not like grafted plants, but I should like you to give them a trial. I am also sending a few other plants which go by the names Aalto and are numbered; these came from some very fine trees. "Criscom" which you sent me last fall has grown well.

As for the season to take cuttings, possibly wood in your section is riper in September than wood here. In September I found the wood to be very soft - light green, in many instances. I have talked with Judd of the Arnold Arboretum who says he has good results if the wood is taken before a hard freeze. I have checked this with several other propagators and they all agree. I realize that there is a great difference in results from different trees.

I have not been able to root "St. Ann" and am sending cuttings to a nursery to do this for me. I am no longer as much interested in "St. Ann" as I was, since I have found a superior tree of the same type.

I hope to make a small exhibit at the coming flower show, demonstrating the variations in Ilex opaca.

Wilfred Wheeler

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