

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

have something outstanding in their special type of beauty, I am inclined to drop their propagation.

The tree which you say would be a wonder as a source for cut sprays seems to me to be worthy of special attention. Do you not think that the greatest ultimate use of our native holly will be in orchards for the production of cut holly for Christmas?

If you have the opportunity of visiting this holly again before spring, may I suggest that you notice especially whether the growth of the past season is sufficiently long and vigorous to provide good cutting material. On most large trees, it is not. I tried for several years to get cuttings from the "Griscom" tree started, but had no success until after the branches had been severely broken.

After the "Griscom" tree had been broken, there were at least two truck loads of branches on the ground. It was just the right time of year to take holly cuttings. I gathered the most promising material from the broken branches but had no better luck in rooting cuttings than I had had in previous years. However, from the stub of every broken branch there was a big bunch of vigorous sprouts, the best kind of cutting material. We thinned out these sprouts two years in succession and thus got a good start with this fine variety.

You certainly would not want to treat any tree as severely as the storm treated the "Griscom" holly. It might be well, however, to prune some of the branches rather hard in hopes of securing better cuttings next fall when we may be able to use the greenhouse again.

Elizabeth C. White

January 15, 1945

I shall treat the tree a good deal as you said the "Griscom" tree was treated by the storm, that is, I shall prune it severely so that it will make a lot of new growth next season. This is the only way to get good cuttings quickly. The tree of "Emily"