

I have not been troubled in moving holly trees, even up to fifteen feet, though I prefer to move smaller sizes since I can shape them so much better; and in the time it takes for the larger trees to recover, the smaller trees catch up.

The problem of rooting cuttings is not so serious, if you use the proper material and the right season. You will have to practice root-pruning on the stringy root types.

Do you have Ilex glabra, the inkberry, in your section and have you tried propagating it?

Kilfred Wheeler

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March 3, 1939

Yes, we have an abundance of Ilex glabra here at Whitesbog and have propagated several of the better bushes. I have always felt that there should be considerable demand for the better types, but have not gone far in working with I. glabra.

I have a little native plant garden about the house and the inkberry volunteers in many places. I usually leave these plants until I find a certain plant is out of place or of poor type. The types vary considerably.

Elizabeth C. White

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November 18, 1939

I went to Newport yesterday and got a few cuttings from some holly trees I had heard about, and I am sending them to you. The bags are numbered 1 to 5, and following is the description of each bag:

1. Probably a male, but the tree is so compact and inclined to be dwarf that I thought it had possibilities.

2. A very compact type, with good-colored leaves and fruit. It would seem to be the type desired for a nursery tree.
  3. Fruit borne in rather loose clusters, but the tree is of very good shape and form, with dark and large leaves.
  4. English holly, which has been unprotected for the past six years and has endured temperatures of 8° below zero.
  5. This tree is a very close-growing type, looks like a boxwood; the fruit, borne on long, rather loose stems, is of good color.
- The English holly bore fruit last year, but had none this season.

Wilfred Wheeler

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November 27, 1939

The description of the various trees of which you are sending cuttings, sounds interesting, though I am rather skeptical of the English holly. Those trees which will survive a temperature of 8° below are apt to be caught in those rare winters when it drops to 20° below, as it does here in New Jersey.

Elizabeth C. White

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December 2, 1939

I sent the cuttings from the Wilson trees and from the Allen tree yesterday. After looking over the Newport trees again, I was not so sure that they would be of value to the collection, so I sent only I. aquifolium.

I had a letter from Jackson Batchelor of the U.S.D.A., and he sent me pictures of a holly on Long Island, an aquifolium type, which seems perfectly hardy in this section. Graves has one at the Field Station in Waltham, Mass., which has gone through winters of 20° below zero. I am getting three of these that Graves

propagated and will send one to you in the spring. A description of the tree is enclosed.

I am more interested in the tree (Ilex altaclarensis) as a pot-plant possibility, for which its rapid growth would recommend it. I remember years ago at Christmas in England I was much impressed with the hollies sold in pots; they were full of berries.

Wilfred Wheeler

(See Sheet A on Ilex altaclarensis)

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December 7, 1939

I notice from the description of Ilex altaclarensis that the original tree was frozen back in 1933 and 1916 which, for many purposes, puts it out of competition with the very best types of I. opaca; but this will not interfere with its usefulness as a potted Christmas plant. I shall be glad to receive the plant next spring and see what we can do with it.

The cuttings of the two Wilson trees and the Allen tree, as well as of the Newport I. aquifolium, which were considerably shriveled on arrival, now look to be in excellent condition. I have come to depend upon the appearance of cuttings in the cutting bed in judging the quality of the foliage. The leaves of both lots of Wilson cuttings have the same highly attractive foliage as those which you sent to me last year. The foliage of the Allen tree is not so attractive, which may be caused by the conditions under which the tree is growing.

Elizabeth C. White

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December 8, 1939

I do wish you could see the Wilson trees now. I have shown them to several people and all are enthused with the possibilities of holly on the Cape.

I have just received some fruit from I. altaclarensis and, while it is heavy, the color is not so good as that of our best I. opaca.

I am making some new beds for the hollies which I am going to plant in the spring. The beds are being prepared three feet deep and four feet across for each tree. I am using oak leaves and leafmold from an oak forest. I find that this is the best fertilizer for holly.

Wilfred Wheeler

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December 17, 1939

I am sending you a few sprays from a holly tree I came upon in the woods. The tree is so overgrown with other trees that it has little chance to show what it can do under good growing conditions. But I was struck by the rather small leaf and the compact habit of the branches. The color of the fruit is not so good as I should wish, but I believe that this is due to complete shade. I can get an abundance of cuttings from this tree, so please let me know what you think of its possibilities.

Wilfred Wheeler

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December 21, 1939

The holly cuttings described in your letter of December 17th have just come. I think they are beautiful. I should like to have as many cuttings from this tree as you can send, and I shall be glad to receive more of the Wilson cuttings as soon after Christmas as you find it convenient to get them.