

been developed through centuries in the harsher climates of New Jersey and more particularly of Cape Cod. I get a greater thrill out of the very fine quality trees you have been able to locate than out of the trees which can be found farther south.

Elizabeth C. White

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July 3, 1941

We heard of your locality being menaced by forest fires this past spring. We had the same trouble ourselves, mainly because of the large number of soldiers in the woods.

I had fair success in rooting hollies this year and planted in the woods about 300 which I had rooted from several selected trees.

I have been watching several trees, some of which will fruit heavily, so I shall be able to get a better line on them this fall. I have also found that some of the trees root much better than others.

We have had a very bad season, but things look better now that we have had some rain. The cranberry bogs are showing heavy bloom and, on the whole, look very well.

Wilfred Wheeler

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July 26, 1941

We learned early that there is a great difference in the ease of rooting cuttings from different trees. There is also a great difference in the habit of root growth of the plants from cuttings of different trees. Some, without any root pruning, make a compact ball and are easy to move successfully, while others make long, stringy roots and are difficult to move successfully. This difference is very important when establishing a nursery business in holly.

Our holly stock this summer looks much better than ever before. From the cuttings taken last fall, we potted in 3-inch clay pots over 11,800 plants; among them, 472 plants from the cuttings you sent. These are divided as follows: 144 plants, Allen; 104 plants, Wilson #1, 176 plants, Wilson #2; 42 plants, Wheeler #1; and 6 plants, Wheeler #2.

This is a very good start with the two Wilson trees which so far appear to be the most valuable from the cuttings you have sent.

We made a change this spring in handling hollies which had been in 3-inch clay pots for one season. Instead of planting them in nursery rows, they were planted in Clover-set pots which are made of a roofing material. These plants are growing fast, and they can be sold and moved with perfect safety at any time. They can also be set close together in such small space that we should be able to protect them from frost damage next spring. Unless the buds and flowers are injured by spring frosts, the plants from cuttings produce berries when very small.

In the Clover-set pots we have over 8,700 plants, including 16 of Wilson #1 and 19 of Wilson #2.

Elizabeth C. White

August 5, 1941

We hope the gasoline ban will not prevent you from visiting us this fall. In some places the holly fruit is very heavy, while in others it is not so good. I do want you to see the Wilson trees when the fruit is ripe; these trees promise to be better than usual.

I am interested in what you have written about growing the small trees in pots. I am sure that the big business in holly will come at Christmas when we can supply the market with small, compact trees from pots or tubs and, of course, fruited.

I came across a tree at Mt. Vernon which had been inarched, male and female so that they were growing as on one tree - fruit on one side and none on the other. There might be something in this, provided that the original work was done so that it was not too carefully divided, that is, several trees could be inarched so that the male tree was pretty well covered but leaving enough for fertilizing. This would be done only where people could use just one tree.

Wilfred Wheeler

October 12, 1941

Will it be convenient for you and Mrs. Wheeler if I spend the nights of October 23rd and 24th with you? The berries on most of the holly trees should be red by then. I am working out the schedule in connection with the vacation of a young friend, Pauline Houck, who will help drive, since I find such long trips tax my strength too much.

I am very happy over the growth made by the hollies planted in the Clover-set pots last spring; it has surpassed my best hopes and the plants are well set with fruit buds. They are so located that I should be able to protect them from too strong a sweep of winter winds and from spring frosts. If I succeed in this, I should have 5,000 to 6,000 plants with berries to market for Christmas '42.

Elizabeth C. White

October 15, 1941

We shall look forward to seeing you on the 23rd and 24th.

I am so glad to hear about the hollies and hope that the plants will be in good condition for Christmas next year. I have always felt that this is the ideal plant for Christmas just as it is in England, but no one in this country seems to have

realized this yet.

The color on the hollies may not be too good. Since the autumn has been warm, there is little fall coloring.

Wilfred Wheeler

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November 3, 1941

Pauline and I finished a most satisfactory trip when we reached Whitesbog last Wednesday about half after five. We felt we had been soaked in most glorious autumn color all the way, but for me the high spot was the day we spent hunting holly on the Cape. The "Dorothy" cuttings were all neatly made and set before I got home, but the Winton twins, who have done all the holly cutting work here for the past three years, count them quite inferior to the Wilson cuttings which they made last year. Well, time will tell.

I thought the quality of the abused, little, roadside tree was very good. We could hardly expect the quality of the leaves to compare to advantage with those of the Wilson trees which have had protection and no doubt feeding. When they are in nursery rows side by side, we shall know better.

Last Thursday we made a trip to Cape May Court House. Nearby a Mr. Davis has a considerable farm on which he grows fine holly. We brought back small quantities of cuttings from six trees which seemed worth trying. However, I am doubtful of the hardiness of the trees from that locality.

Yesterday, when I took Pauline to Philadelphia to board the bus back to her nursing job, I had an opportunity to visit the Criscom tree. It is just as heavily loaded with berries as it was last year. The foliage on the sunny side is a much better color as a result of feeding with Bartlett Tree Food, and the several small cavities have been expertly filled. I encouraged Mr. Criscom to feed the tree again this fall. This care, I think, will prolong its life and vigor for many years.