

November 10, 1938

I have heard thru a friend that you are collecting the various types of Ilex opaca in your section; this has been a hobby of mine for quite a while, and I have several types which vary a great deal one from another. You probably have found similar variation; but if it would be of any interest, I shall send you some fruit of the samples I have to compare with yours. I am trying to propagate the best types and have several under cultivation.

There are, of course, outstanding trees in our section, and I have tried to have them protected as well as possible. The great scourge, however, of the holly are the fires; we have lost some of the best trees in this way. Cape Cod is an ideal place for holly and it would grow here in great abundance, if it had any encouragement.

Have you tried any of the other species of holly? I have Ilex aquifolium, I. vomitoria, I. cornuta, I. latifolia, and some of the varieties of I. aquifolium. Not all are hardy, but some are making good growth.

Is there anything of interest to see at your place at this season?

Wilfred Wheeler

November 11, 1938

It would interest me to see the fruit, as you suggest, though I find the quality of the leaves and the general habit of the plant are quite as much interest as the berries.

I have tried a number of hollies other than I. opaca, but I feel that it is more worth while to continue my efforts to opaca than to play with the other species. Because of the difficulty in protecting outstanding wild trees, I feel that the selection and propagation of holly, such as you are doing and I am doing, is one of

the finest contributions to conservation. So many people will plant these lovely trees in their gardens, if they can be assured of getting a fine type which can be moved with comparative ease.

While there has been a break in my work so that I have no holly trees of any considerable size at the present time, I think that you would find a great deal of interest at Whitesbog even at this time of year.

Elizabeth C. White

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January 4, 1939

I am sending a small branch of a holly which has been under cultivation for the past ten years. The tree was taken from the woods when it was about eight feet tall and moved to a good location; it is now about twenty feet tall with a spread of almost the same dimension. I find that good cultivation does more for holly than anything else -- the fruit and leaves will be increased in size. This tree and others have been fertilized mostly with manure.

You are wise in sticking to the hardy hollies. I feel sure, however, that a great deal can be done with some of the other hardy species such as I. monticola, I. serrata, and even I. verticillata. The latter, I believe, can be greatly improved by selection and breeding as well as by proper cultivation.

Wilfred Wheeler

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January 18, 1939

I decided not to send you the rather sad-looking branch of holly. But since I was near the trees today, I cut a spray from each of three types. These trees were moved from the woods about ten years ago and are now about eighteen feet high; all