

Native Holly Trees

By: Melinda Sperl

If you notice trees with bright red berries in January, you are probably seeing one of our native holly trees. They are beautiful plants that can be integrated into any landscape. Unlike their Asian cousins, they are relatively free of insects and disease.

The Yaupon Holly is a native that is used in landscapes but, when left untrimmed or grown as a tree, it produces beautiful red berries. The dwarf version is often used as landscape hedging and does not produce berries.

Another Native holly is the Possumhaw Holly Tree (image attached) which has a spectacular display of bright berries in the middle of winter. There are several varieties available with red berries like Pocahontas and Red Cascade or even a golden version, Finch's Golden. They do require a male and female to pollinate but they are easily able to cross with other native hollies.

All hollies require full sun and dry land but will tolerate some shade after they are established. Your best berries will be produced in sunny locations. Those berries can really perk up a dreary winter landscape and the birds really love them.

Happy Gardening!

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