

Ilex

Ilex, Holly (*Aquifoliaceae*)



x altaclarensis "Golden King" (*I. aquifolium* "Golden King")

Origin: England. Evergreen shrub, wide and compact. Ovoidal leaves, 4-6cm, not very thorny, bright green with golden-yellow margins. Fruit: the female plant produces a lot of round fruit, 5mm wide, coral-red. Loves soil that is neither calcareous nor too dry, but quite moist. In warm areas it is better in half shade. Use: planted singly, in rock gardens or mixed hedges.

aquifolium, Common Holly

Origin: Europe, North east Africa. Evergreen shrub or tree with narrow and conical crown. Green bark when the plant is young, later it is smooth and grey. Leaves: 5.5-7.5cm long with sharp thorns on the edges, shiny and waxy on the upper side. Small, fragrant, white-lilac flowers in April-May followed (on the fertilised female plants) by very showy red berries which form in September and sometimes last until the following year. Hardy, withstands cold, tolerates pruning. Use: planted singly, in groups and hedges.



Ilex

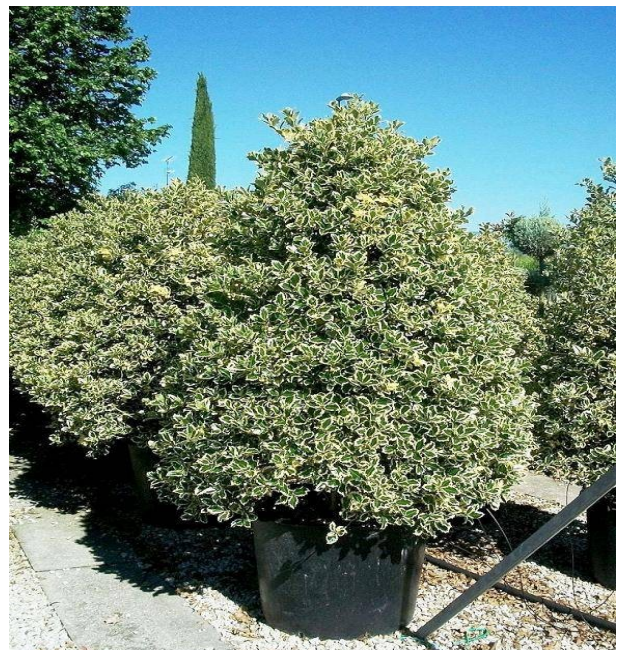


aquifolium "Alaska"

Origin: Holland. Evergreen shrub, more regular growth than *Ilex aquifolium*, compact and narrowly pyramidal. Very suitable to be trained into a half standard tree. Leaves: leathery, lanceolate, 3-7cm long, 1-2cm wide with undulate and spiny margins, vivid, dark green on the upper side and paler green underneath. Numerous small, creamy-white flowers at the axil of each leaf in April. Fruit: female form producing numerous berries every year which in June begin to turn bright red and last until the end of March. Soil, growing requirements and use: the same as *Ilex aquifolium*.

aquifolium "Argenteomarginata" (*I. aquifolium* "Albomarginata") (*I. aquifolium* "Argenteovariegata"), Broad-leaved Silver Holly

Evergreen shrub which grows irregularly and dense in the first years. Later, if properly pruned, it becomes widely pyramidal. When grafted at the height of about 1 meter it becomes a small tree with round crown. Ovoidal leaves, up to 8cm long and 4cm wide, leathery and unevenly undulate at the edges, dark green with purple nuances at the beginning, variegated afterwards. Fruit: very abundant on female plants, the same as *Ilex aquifolium*. Soil and growing requirements: the same as *Ilex aquifolium*. Use: planted singly, in groups or with other plants, in hedges. As half standard: in geometrical gardens, in the centre of borders. In pot it is an important feature on balconies, patios and verandas



Ilex



aquifolium "Castanaefolia"
(I. x altaclarensis
"Castanaefolia")

Very beautiful clone with pyramidal habit, which produces large fruits. Purple coloured trunk. Large long leaves, almost without thorns, lovely shiny green.

aquifolium "Mme Briot"

Large evergreen shrub with purple stems. Leaves 8-10cm long, widely ovate, dark green with spiny golden-yellow margins. Female plant produces scarlet fruit every year. Growing requirements and use the same as *Ilex aquifolium* "Argenteomarginata".



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aquifolium "Pyramidalis"

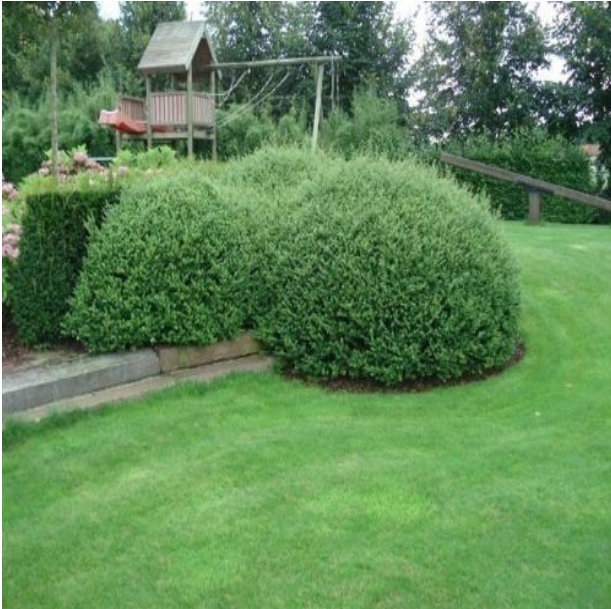
Evergreen shrub or small tree, dense and upright, naturally taking on a conical shape. Elliptical leaves 6-7 cm long, 2-3 cm broad, shiny green, with entire margins. Abundant fruit, red, 7-10 cm in diameter. Growing requirements and use: like *Ilex aquifolium*.

cornuta "Dazzler"

Evergreen shrub with upright, broad, compact, very regular habit. Rectangular shiny green leaves, with prominent spines. Large, shiny, red fruit. Polygamous variety which bears fruit regularly every year. Even when adult it does not become bare at the base and is therefore particularly suitable for hedges which do not need pruning.



Ilex



crenata "Convexa"

Origin: Japan, Korea. Evergreen shrub with spreading habit and outspread branches. Leaves: small (2-3cm), from oval to lanceolate, green. Flowers: a dioecious plant, with small, white flowers in April-May. Fruit 6mm wide, shiny, black and long lasting. Requires fertile, loose, not-calcareous soil. Not suitable to climates that are too dry. Tolerates any kind of pruning and is very suitable for hedges and group planting.

crenata "Kinme"

Compared with the previous one, grows bigger and has even denser foliage, with leaves initially slightly golden but quickly becoming an unrivalled glossy green. The variety used in Japan to obtain Giant Garden Bonsai.



Ilex



crenata "Fastigiata"

Evergreen shrub, unusual because of the narrow, columnar shape produced by the long, upright branches which grow close to the trunk. Oval-lanceolate leaves, 1.5-2.5cm long, 1cm wide, with convex edges very similar to the leaves of the Buxus plant, dark green on the upper side, paler underneath. Soil: the same as Ilex crenata "Convexa". An excellent plant for rock gardens and hedges which do not require pruning, both in the garden and in pots.

mutchagara "Nellie R. Stevens"

Origin: *Ilex aquifolium* x *Ilex cornuta*. A recently introduced evergreen shrub which is noted for the rapid, regular growth, abundant flowering and luxuriant fructification. Leathery leaves, elongate-ovate, not very spiny, up to 8cm long and 4cm wide, bright glossy green. Flowers: small but numerous and showy in March-April. Large, scarlet red fruit which last until spring. Same growing requirements as *Ilex aquifolium*.

