

ONLA's November 2002
"Plant of the Month"

WINTERBERRY HOLLY *Ilex verticillata*



Winterberry Holly

* Winterberry holly and its hybrids are shrubs to multi-stemmed trees with outstanding fruit features for fall and early winter appeal.

* Fruits on different cultivars range from red to orange to yellow, but the re-fruited types, with names such as 'Winter Red', 'Sparkleberry' and 'Bonfire' are the ones that bring traffic to a halt starting in October of each year. Masses of 1/4 to 1/2 inch berry-like holiday red fruits are bright counterpoints to the coming winter weather.

* For about a month in October the fruits are paired with first green then yellowing foliage of the plant, but then the leaves drop from this "deciduous" holly, and the fruits shine forth, typically until birds and the winds take them in January.

* This is a holly quite happy in wet sites, as winterberries thrive even in swampy locations. Acid soils are best. It has few pest and disease problems.

* Planting in masses and in shrub borders is an effective design. To get fruits, you must plant females and the occasional male winterberry holly as a pollinator.

*Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association Plant Selection Committee choice in: 1992



Winterberry
Holly



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