

Holly

Ilex spp.

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

5–9

SUNLIGHT

Part Shade

BLOOM

Spring

HEIGHT

6–25 ft

DEER

Resistant

ORIGIN

North American native

POLLINATORS

Yes

AT A GLANCE

Most hollies need a male plant nearby to produce the red berries that make them landscape standouts. One male can pollinate several females within about 50 feet -- but they must be the same species or compatible group. Buy labeled plants from a reputable nursery. American holly (*I. opaca*) and inkberry (*I. glabra*) are the most reliable choices for eastern U.S. zones 5–9; 'Nellie R. Stevens' is the standard recommendation for a single-specimen evergreen holly in zones 6–9.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/holly-care/>

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