

FACT SHEET



American Holly

Ilex opaca

Leaf: Alternate, simple, evergreen, elliptical, 2 to 4 inches long, spiny toothed margin, thickened and leathery, shiny dark green above, much paler below.

Flower: Dioecious; dull green-white, male flowers on 3 to 7 flowered cymes, female flowers are solitary with a pleasant odor, appearing in late spring.

Fruit: Berry-like drupe, red, rarely yellow when ripe, 1/4 inch in diameter, containing ribbed nutlets; maturing in autumn and persisting on tree into winter.

Twig: Slender, with rust-colored pubescence; buds small reddish brown, pointed.

Bark: Light gray and smooth regardless of size.

Form: A small tree to 40 feet, with a thick crown and pyramidal form, usually with branches to the ground.

