Piccolo Japanese Holly

Ilex crenata 'Piccolo'



Piccolo Japanese Holly
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Boxleaf Holly

Description:

An absolutely stunning dwarf, dense and tightly compact evergreen shrub with tiny foliage and a mounded habit of growth, glossy black berries if planted with a male variety; an excellent addition to the garden or border

Ornamental Features

Piccolo Japanese Holly is primarily valued in the garden for its interestingly mounded form. It has dark green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The tiny glossy oval leaves remain dark green throughout the winter. It produces black berries from mid fall to late winter.

Landscape Attributes

Piccolo Japanese Holly is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Piccolo Japanese Holly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Piccolo Japanese Holly will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more. This variety requires a different selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Piccolo Japanese Holly makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.