Myrtifolia English Holly

Ilex aquifolium 'Myrtifolia'

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Pineapple Holly

Description:

Narrow, spiny, dark green leaves give this holly interesting texture; valued as a landscape accent for tight spaces or as a container plant; slow growing, with an upright, conical growth habit; requires moist to wet highly acidic soils; male variety



Myrtifolia English Holly foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Myrtifolia English Holly has attractive dark green foliage with pointy yellow spines on a plant with a pyramidal habit of growth. The small glossy narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.



Myrtifolia English Holly foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Myrtifolia English Holly is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and bees to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Myrtifolia English Holly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Myrtifolia English Holly will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. 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, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.