Clarendon Spreading American Holly

Ilex opaca 'Clarendon Spreading'



Clarendon Spreading American Holly
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

Versatile, low spreading holly with spiny, glossy, olive green, evergreen leaves; showy orange-red berries in winter; an excellent specimen plant for the home landscape, does best in evenly moist, acidic soils

Ornamental Features

Clarendon Spreading American Holly is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent scarlet berries from mid fall to late winter. It has olive green evergreen foliage. The spiny oval leaves remain olive green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Clarendon Spreading American Holly is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease

Clarendon Spreading American Holly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Clarendon Spreading American Holly will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more. This is a female variety of the species which requires a male selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. 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 somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Clarendon Spreading American Holly makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. 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.