Silver Variegated English Holly

Ilex aquifolium 'Argentea Variegata'



Silver Variegated English Holly foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Other Names: Argentea Marginata

Description:

Valued for its colorful and abundant red berries; the glossy, silver variegated leaves are widely oval; upright growth habit; requires moist to wet highly acidic soil

Ornamental Features

Silver Variegated English Holly is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent red berries in late fall. It has attractive dark green foliage edged in white. The spiny pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Silver Variegated English Holly is a dense evergreen tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, 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.

Silver Variegated English Holly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Silver Variegated English Holly will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This tree 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.