Golden King Holly

Ilex 'Golden King'



Golden King Holly foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6

Description:

A delightful ornamental plant with tidy, compact habit; splendid rich, dark green, glossy leaves with striking gold edges; nearly spineless and covered with red fruit in winter

Ornamental Features

Golden King 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 gold. The spiny oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Golden King Holly is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen tree with a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Golden King Holly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Golden King Holly will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 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 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.