Rock Garden Holly

Ilex 'Rock Garden'



Rock Garden Holly
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

An excellent evergreen groundcover and rock garden selection; bright red berries are somewhat sparse; requires male pollinator for fruit; does best in evenly moist, acidic soils

Ornamental Features

Rock Garden Holly is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent red berries in early fall. It has attractive forest green foliage edged in light green. The small spiny oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain forest green throughout the winter.



Rock Garden Holly foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Rock Garden Holly is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Rock Garden Holly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Rock Garden Holly will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 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 approximately 15 years. This is a dioecious species, meaning that individual plants are either male or female. Only the females will produce fruit, and a male variety of the same species is required nearby as a pollinator.

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 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.

Rock Garden Holly makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. 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.