

Ilex verticillata

Winterberry

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



This native* deciduous holly produces prodigious quantities of plump, red, berry-like fruit (called drupes), which decorate the plant from mid-fall into early spring. 'Red Sprite,' a female dwarf cultivar, needs the services of the male 'Jim Dandy' to make fruit. Purchase at least two females and one male for a "berry" good show.

Shrub	Flowers, 'Red Sprite' Fruit, Fall/Winter Shrubs
Height: 6–12 feet ('Red Sprite' 2½–3 feet and 'Jim Dandy' 3–6 feet with similar spread)	
Spread: 3–12 feet	
Bloom Color: Greenish-white	
Characteristics	 
Deciduous shrub with rounded crown, upright habit	
Dioecious: separate male and female plants	
Quilted green foliage	
Greenish-white flowers in June and July	
Brilliant red drupes mature late August to September; male plant needed for females to bear fruit	
Attributes	
Tolerates clay soil, wet soil, shade, air pollution; averse to neutral to basic soil; no serious pests or diseases; deer seldom to occasionally severely damage	
Twiggy winter silhouette with persisting drupes	
Drupes are poisonous to humans	
Provides cover and food for mammals and 48 bird species including northern mockingbird (pictured)	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Fertile, well-drained acidic	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> - Japanese Barberry
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Eleagnus umbellata</i> - Autumn Olive
Water Requirements: Moist, Wet	<i>Lonicera</i> species - Bush Honeysuckles
Plant 1 male for up to 10 females (same species with same bloom time) within 40 feet of each other	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> & <i>R. frangula</i> - European (or Common) & Glossy (or Shining) Buckthorns
Prune in early spring before new growth appears	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i> - Wineberry
Use as hedge, in rain garden, or to control erosion	<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i> - Linden Viburnum
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–9	*It is frequent to common throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region.
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Judy Funderburk (fruit), Mary Free (bird), and Elaine Mills, Glencarlyn Garden and (shrubs) Bon Air Park