

Native Holly

By: Melinda Sperl

If you notice a tree with bright red berries in January, that is probably one of our native hollies. They are beautiful plants that can be integrated into any landscape. Unlike their Asian cousins, they are relatively free of insects and disease.

The Yaupon Holly is a native plant that is used in landscapes as a hedge or topiary plant. But, when a Yaupon holly is left untrimmed or is grown as a tree, it produces beautiful red berries.

Another Native holly is the Possumhaw Holly which is grown in tree form and has a spectacular display of berries in winter. There are several varieties available in red berries like Pocahontas and Red Cascade or even a golden version, Finch's Golden. They do require a male and female to pollinate but they are able to cross easily with other native hollies.

All hollies require full sun and dry land. They will tolerate some shade after they are established but your best berries will be produced in sunny locations.

Melinda Sperl is the owner of Dream Landscape Design, Inc., a full service landscape and irrigation company. You can reach Melinda at 281-744-2669 or www.dreamlandscapedesign.com