

Native tree with a slow growth habit, good as an understory plant that will also take full sun, deer resistant, few pests or diseases

Scientific Name: *Ilex opaca*

Common Name: American holly

Hardiness Zones: 5–9

Habit: 20–30 feet tall by 10–20 feet wide

Growth Rate: Slow

Form: Pyramidal

Foliage: Evergreen, 3.5 inches long, alternate, simple, dark green oval leaves; 3–4 spines along leaf margins

Flowers: Small white flowers in late spring followed by red or yellow berries in fall that persist throughout winter months



Richard Webb, Self-employed horticulturist, Bugwood.org

Ilex opaca American Holly

Site Requirements: Prefers partial shade to full sun and moist well-drained soil

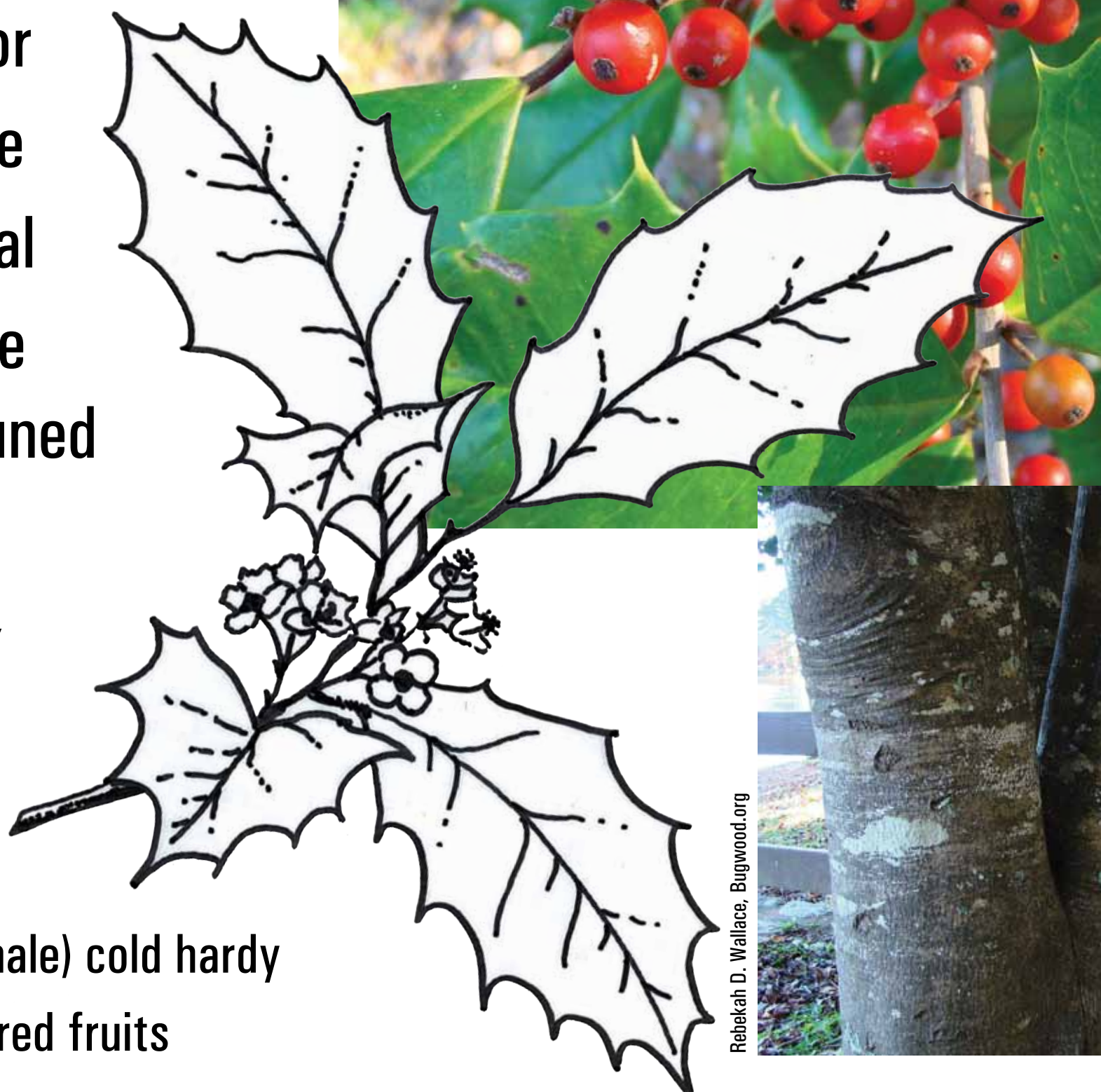
Description: A native broadleafed evergreen tree, prized as an easy to care for plant in the home landscape. Separate male and female plants are required for best fruit (berry) development. Fruit colors range from bright red to yellow. Plants show pyramidal growth form when young and then become more open and irregular at maturity. Trees can be pruned for a tighter shape. Check local nurseries for cultivars with various mature sizes, fruit colors, and leaf colors.

Cultivars:

- I. opaca* 'Old Heavy Berry' prolific producer of large berries
- I. opaca* 'Jersey Princess' (female, red fruits), 'Jersey Knight' (male) cold hardy
- I. opaca* 'Satyr Hill' rounded, attractive olive green leaves with red fruits



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