



# American Holly

*Ilex opaca*

## The Holly Family (Aquifoliaceae)

**Basic Description:** A hardy evergreen tree with a pyramidal shape with leaves that are thick, leathery, and alternately arranged with one to several prominent spines.

**Interesting Facts:** Known as Christmas holly because its branches with red berries are commonly used as decorations for that holiday.

**Flower:** .25" greenish white flowers in clusters on short stalks; male and female flowers on separate plants.

**Fruit:** .25 - .5" red berries, rarely yellow, found only on female trees.

**Wildlife Value:** Small mammals and at least 18 species of birds eat the berries including the wild turkey. The flowers valuable source of nectar and important to honey bees.

**Habitat:** Found in shaded woods, stream and river banks in uplands and lowlands. Primarily an understory tree.

### LEAF TYPE

SIMPLE



### POLLINATOR

INSECTS



### WILDLIFE VALUE

HIGH

