PLANT FACT SHEET

Ilex aquifolium L.

GENUS *Ilex* **FAMILY** Aquifoliaceae

COMMON NAMES Holly

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves - tea, Fruit - drink

The leaves have been used as a tea substitute.
The red berries are used to make a brandy.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen tree. It grows 15 m high and spreads 4 m wide. The stem is stout. The bark is smooth and grey. The tree crown is pyramid shaped. The leaves are thick and a glossy green. There are stout prickles along the edge. They alternatively point upwards and downwards. The flowers are small and white. They are in the axils of the leaves. The fruit are bright red berries. They are on female plants only.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows best in an acid, sandy or gravelly loam. It needs a protected sunny position. It is resistant to frost and sensitive to drought. In the tropics it is grown at higher altitudes. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. These can take 3-12 months to germinate. They can be grown from woody cuttings.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/865441bf-2201-402b-9bf9-be73e84cb8d6