



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii Nana'<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

This dense evergreen shrub has small, glossy, dark green leaves, each with a single terminal spine (Fig. 1). The somewhat-showy clusters of fragrant, springtime, white flowers are followed in fall and winter by some bright red berries. However, the berry display is mostly inferior to *Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii'. The plants are self-fertile, fruiting even if planted alone.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii Nana'

**Pronunciation:** EYE-lecks kor-NOO-tuh

**Common name(s):** Compact Burford Holly

**Family:** Aquifoliaceae

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 7 through 9 (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** year round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** foundation; hedge; border; container or above-ground planter; screen; specimen; espalier; cut foliage/twigs

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

### Description

**Height:** 10 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 8 to 12 feet

**Plant habit:** round

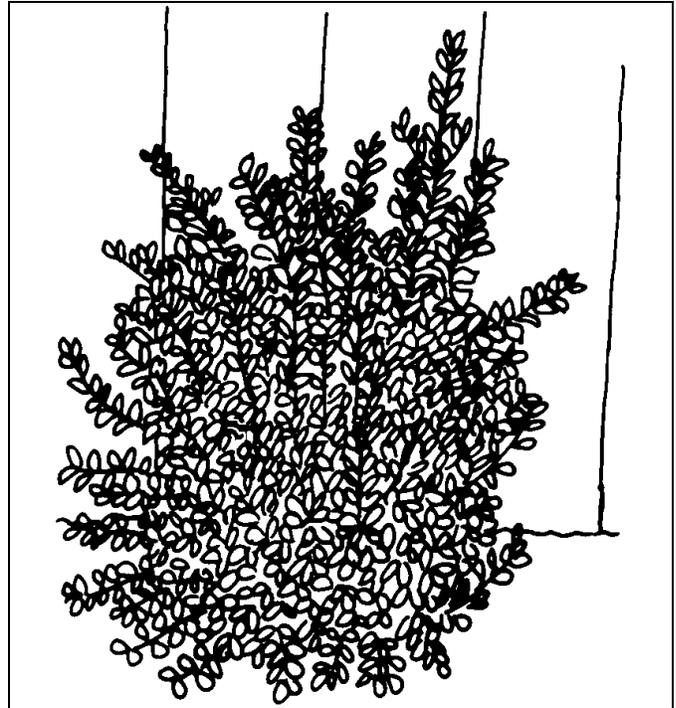


Figure 1. Compact Burford Holly.

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** medium

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf margin:** terminal spine  
**Leaf shape:** ovate; obovate  
**Leaf venation:** pinnate  
**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen  
**Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches  
**Leaf color:** green  
**Fall color:** no fall color change  
**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** white  
**Flower characteristic:** spring flowering; pleasant fragrance

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** round  
**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch  
**Fruit cover:** fleshy  
**Fruit color:** green  
**Fruit characteristic:** persists on the plant; attracts birds

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems; can be trained to grow with a short, single trunk

**Current year stem/twig color:** green  
**Current year stem/twig thickness:** medium

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun  
**Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam  
**Drought tolerance:** high  
**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown  
**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

**Other**

**Roots:** usually not a problem  
**Winter interest:** plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers  
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding  
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive  
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## Use and Management

The shrub will reach a height of 15 feet or more, despite the compact growth habit. If left unclipped, a dense, oval silhouette develops, making it well suited as a screen. Plant three to four feet apart to form a hedge, farther apart in a shrub border. One yearly pruning can easily keep this plant in bounds in most landscape settings, unless it is clipped into a formal hedge. It shears fairly well, but will thin toward the base, especially if not located in full sun. Clip the hedge so it is wider at the bottom than at the top to allow maximum light penetration to bottom foliage. This will help keep the hedge full to the ground.

Growing best in rich, well-drained, slightly acid soil, Compact Burford Holly does well in full sun or part shade. The plant is very drought tolerant, requiring little, if any, irrigation once established in the landscape.

Propagation is by cuttings only.

Although easy to grow, Compact Burford Holly can be bothered by scale insects and aphids.

### Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.

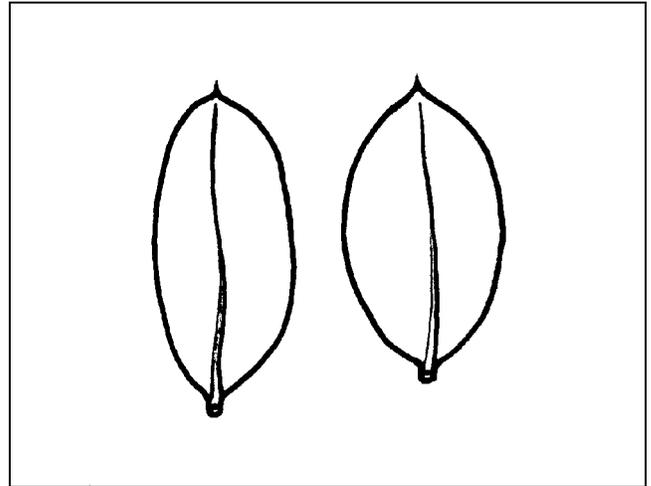


Figure 3. Foliage of Compact Burford Holly