



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

***Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii Nana'**¹

Edward F. Gilman²

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

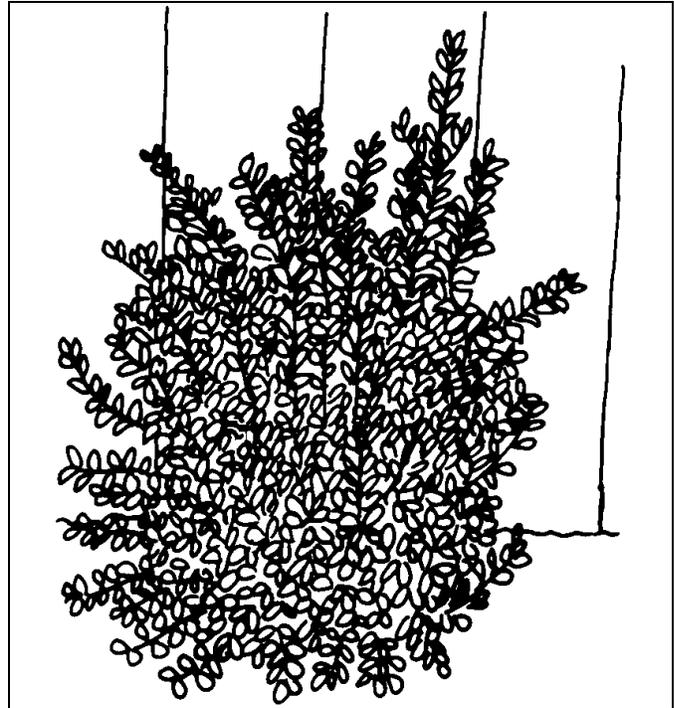


Figure 1. Compact Burford Holly.

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-263, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin. For information on obtaining other extension publications, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office. Florida Cooperative Extension Service / Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences / University of Florida / Christine Taylor Waddill, Dean



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.

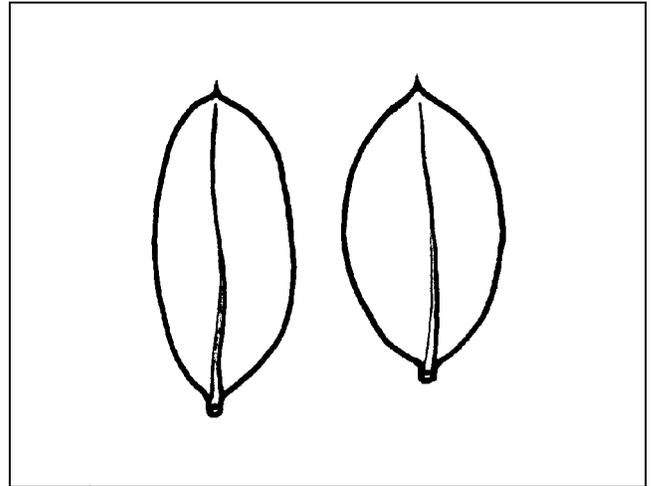


Figure 3. Foliage of Compact Burford Holly