



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Ilex pedunculosa*<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

This broadleaf evergreen from China, Japan and Korea is not well known in this country. Its moderately dense habit varies from narrow columnar to rounded and irregular. Branches will remain on the lower portion of the trunk forming a nice pyramidal silhouette on some specimens. Others may have to be pruned in order to maintain a uniform shape. Leaves have a smooth, undulating margin quite unlike many other hollies. The dense habit is due to the persistent leaves which remain on the tree for 2 or 3 years. The small, bright fruits are pendent on long peduncles displaying nicely in the foliage. A male plant of the same species must be nearby in order to ensure fruit set. Wildlife appears to enjoy the fruit.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Ilex pedunculosa*

**Pronunciation:** EYE-lecks ped-unk-yoo-LOE-suh

**Common name(s):** Longstalk Holly

**Family:** *Aquifoliaceae*

**Plant type:** tree

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6 through 8 (Fig. 1)

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

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

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** hedge; screen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; container or above-ground planter

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

### Description

**Height:** 10 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 10 to 15 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** fine

#### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** undulate

**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval); oblong

**Leaf venation:** brachidodrome

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

#### Flower

**Flower color:** white; pink

**Flower characteristic:** pleasant fragrance

#### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** less than .5 inch

**Fruit cover:** fleshy

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Figure 1. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Fruit color:** red

**Fruit characteristic:** persists on the plant; attracts birds

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not particularly showy; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** brown; reddish

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

**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:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun

**Soil tolerances:** acidic; well-drained; sand; loam; clay; slightly alkaline

**Drought tolerance:**

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** not applicable

**Use and Management**

Long-stalk Holly is not common in the trade and so has not been used extensively in the landscape. Although it can be thinned or clipped if planted too close to a walk or structure, it may be best used as a specimen in a large garden where its natural habit can be displayed.

Plants are best located in a sunny spot in soil that drains well. Long-stalk Holly can withstand exposure to wind, even in the winter. It appears to be one of the most cold tolerant Hollies.

**Pests and Diseases**

Although few problems are reported on this plant, it has not been widely grown or tested.