



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Mahonia lomariifolia*¹

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Introduction

Giving much the appearance of stiff, crinkly, barbed ferns, Chinese Hollygrape provides a dramatic effect when used in groups near entryways, on shaded patios, or set in the landscape where night-time lighting can enhance its silhouette on the walls of the house (Fig. 1). This upright, evergreen shrub makes an attractive mass planting or north-side foundation planting in the shade. The flowers and fruits are striking when the shrub is planted in mass and displayed against a background of green foliage provided by a taller, dense shrub.

General Information

Scientific name: *Mahonia lomariifolia*

Pronunciation: mah-HOE-nee-uh loe-mair-ree-iff-FOLE-lee-uh

Common name(s): Chinese Hollygrape

Family: *Berberidaceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 8 through 9A (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: border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; specimen; accent

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

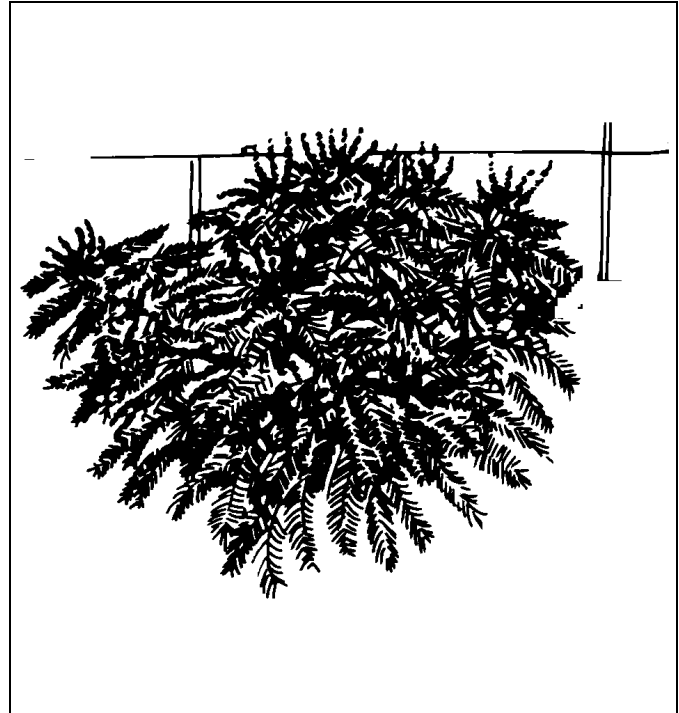


Figure 1. Chinese Hollygrape.

Description

Height: 6 to 10 feet

Spread: 3 to 4 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: open

Growth rate: slow

Texture: coarse

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-378, 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>.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: odd-pinnately compound

Leaf margin: spiny

Leaf shape: oblong

Leaf venation: pinnate; palmate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: blue or blue-green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: yellow

Flower characteristic: winter flowering; spring flowering; pleasant fragrance

Fruit

Fruit shape: oval

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit cover: fleshy

Fruit color: blue

Fruit characteristic: attracts birds

Trunk and Branches

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

Current year stem/twig color: brown

Current year stem/twig thickness: very thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun; plant grows in the shade

Soil tolerances: slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

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

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

The thick, spiny, glossy green leaflets are set off by large clusters of very showy, lemon yellow flowers which project above the foliage. Flowers appear in winter or early spring and are followed by powdery blue berries which are very popular with the birds. This is one of the most beautiful of the mahonias and it deserves to be used more often. Plant on two to three foot centers for a lush, mass effect.

Growing best in partial shade, Chinese Hollygrape does not tolerate salt or poor drainage. Full-day sun can burn the foliage.

Propagation is by seeds or cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

Several leaf spots may be seen, but infected leaves can be picked off and destroyed.

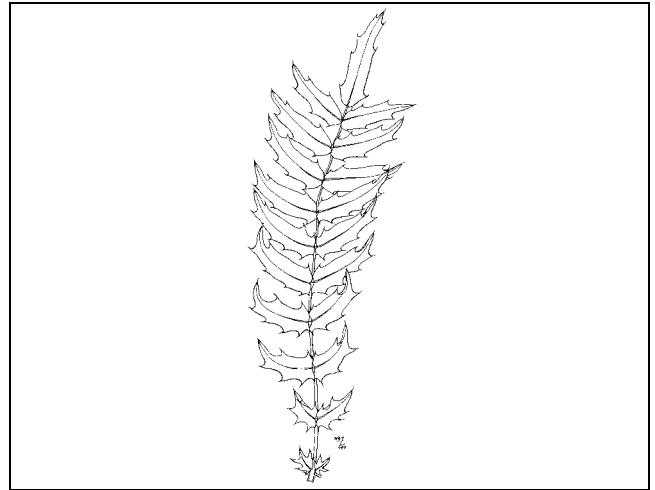


Figure 3. Foliage of Chinese Hollygrape