



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'¹

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Introduction

The symmetrical, dense, rounded form of Dwarf Yaupon Holly requires only infrequent pruning to maintain its 4 to 6-foot height and spread (Fig. 1). Unpruned plants eventually grow 7- to 10-feet-tall and slightly wider. Roots produce sprouts at the edge of the canopy producing dense thickets with time. Ideally suited as low-growing foundation plants, Dwarf Yaupon Holly is also excellent as a tall ground cover for a large-scale commercial or industrial landscape. It can be sheared into a formal hedge or into any of a number of topiary shapes. Most people "meatball" the plant into a globe. The small, gray-green leaves of 'Nana' have no spines and this cultivar of a female plant rarely produces berries. Leaves are slightly larger than on 'Shellings'.

General Information

Scientific name: *Ilex vomitoria* 'Nana'

Pronunciation: EYE-lecks vom-mit-TOR-ee-uh

Common name(s): Dwarf Yaupon Holly

Family: *Aquifoliaceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 10 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Planting month for zone 10: year round

Origin: native to Florida

Uses: bonsai; foundation; mass planting; container or above-ground planter; superior hedge; espalier

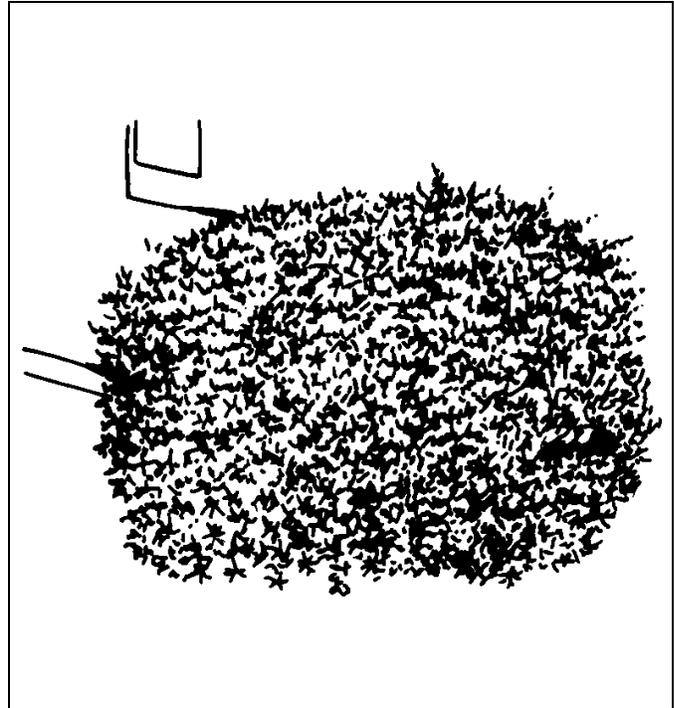


Figure 1. Dwarf Yaupon Holly.

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

Height: 4 to 7 feet

Spread: 6 to 10 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: dense

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-274, 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.

Growth rate: slow

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: serrate

Leaf shape: ovate

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

Fruit

Fruit shape: no fruit

Fruit length: no fruit

Fruit cover: no fruit

Fruit color: no fruit

Fruit characteristic: no fruit

Trunk and Branches

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

Current year stem/twig color: gray/silver

Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun

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

Drought tolerance: high

Soil salt tolerances: moderate

Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: sprouts from roots or lower trunk

Winter interest: no special winter interest

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

Growing well in sun or light shade in soils from dry to wet, Dwarf Yaupon Holly withstands drought when established and is highly salt-tolerant, making it ideally suited to seaside plantings. It is a selection of the native Yaupon Holly which grows naturally without irrigation on the dunes along the Atlantic Ocean. Growth rate is slow to moderate. Space plants 4 to 5 feet apart in a mass planting. Be sure to set plants several feet back from a walk, driveway or lawn area, because plants grow wider than tall and often require pruning to control their lateral growth. If you need to prune in this manner, be sure to leave the bottom of the plant much wider than the top so lower foliage is left on the plant. If you attempt to shear vertically, the lower branches are shaded and often lose foliage. This will give the shrub an unsightly, dark, leafless bottom.

Propagation is by cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

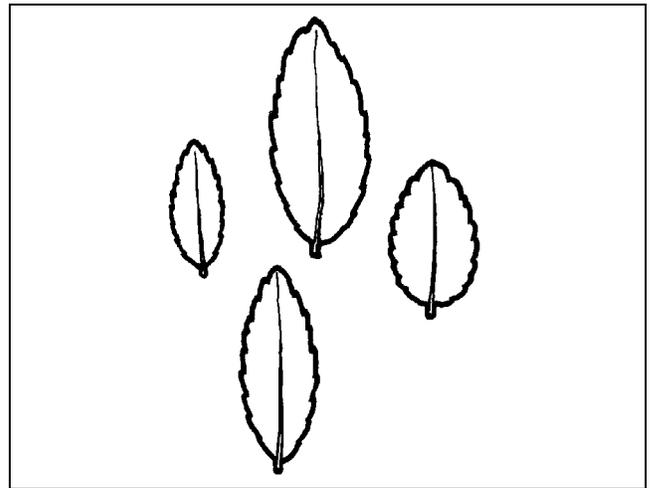


Figure 3. Foliage of Dwarf Yaupon Holly