



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Ilex vomitoria* 'Schilling's Dwarf'<sup>1</sup>

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### Introduction

The symmetrical, dense, rounded form of Schelling's Dwarf Holly requires infrequent pruning to maintain its four to six-foot height and spread (Fig. 1). Ideally suited as low-growing foundation plants, Schelling's Dwarf Holly works well as a tall groundcover for it forms a low dense cover of green foliage when planted in mass. It is often sheared into low hedges in formal gardens, similar to the boxwoods in the early American gardens. The small, dark green leaves have a reddish cast when they are young and no spines. This cultivar of a male plant will produce no berries.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Ilex vomitoria* 'Schilling's Dwarf'

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

**Common name(s):** 'Schilling's Dwarf' 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

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

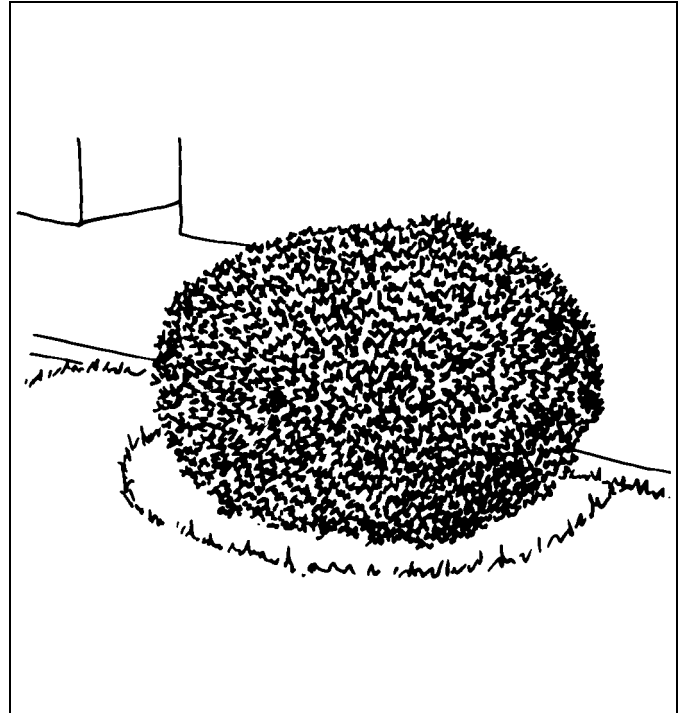


Figure 1. 'Schilling's Dwarf' Holly.

### Description

**Height:** 4 to 7 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 10 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**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, Schellings Dwarf 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. Plant four to five feet apart for 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.