**Ilex vomitoria ‘Schilling’s Dwarf’**

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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 hardness 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

**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.