

Holly Cultivar Registration

1-08 *Ilex opaca* 'Indiana State'

Male

Registered: June 24, 2008

Robert D. Artis for the Friends of the Clark-Landsbaum Demming Park Holly Arboretum

743 Rose Harbour Court

Terre Haute, Indiana 47803

This cultivar originated in 1964, as a chance seedling growing in a neglected holly hedge, behind a farmhouse facing Evesham Road in Magnolia, New Jersey. In front of that house grew a large cumcumbertree magnolia, *Magnolia acuminata*, for which the town of Magnolia was named.

In 1967, cuttings taken from this taxa, appeared to be very unique in that no leaf miner or leaf spot was present while all surrounding plants were infested; it was also at that time that the clone was moved to Terre Haute, Indiana. Although the original plant is no longer in existence, the cuttings taken were later determined to be male, and in 1968, planted out in the yard of a cousin of the discoverer, along with a female holly, *Ilex opaca* 'Farage'. Mr. Artis named this clone in 2005, and it was subsequently introduced by a group of Friends of the Clark-Landsbaum Demming Park Holly Arboretum (FOTA) of Terre Haute, Indiana, in partnership with one of its members, Mr. Kevin Runion, Associate Vice President of Facilities Management at Indiana State University. It was FOTA's goal to expand the use of holly throughout the city of Terre Haute and Mr. Runion offered them nursery space in the ISU Tree Farm to start the project. The university fenced off part of the farm, cultivated the soil, adjusted the soil pH for holly and provided mulch for the rooted cuttings. Then in 2007, nearly 160 one gallon and larger hollies of eight different cultivars were set out and left to attain a suitable size for planting the public spaces of the city. To recognize the university and their unwavering assistance in this project, the name 'Indiana State' was chosen for this new cultivar.

The large evergreen tree, now 44 years old, measures approximately 6.4 m (21 ft.) tall with a spread of 6.1m (20 ft.) and a trunk diameter of 26.7 cm (10.5 in.). The tree exhibits a broadly conical shape and a dense fastigiate branching habit. Annual growth is typically about 20 cm (8 in.). The leaves are oval, coriaceous and keeled. The largest leaves have an average length of 6 cm (2 3/8 in.) and a width of 3.7 cm (1 3/8 in.). The margins are spinose, often to the top half of the leaf and sinuate in top view, with 2-3 (typically 2) spines per side and undulate in cross section. Bases are rounded to cuneate, and petioles 8 mm (5/16 in.) in length. Leaf apices are acuminate with an aristate tip spine 2 mm (1/16 in.) in length. Leaves are olive-green, Green Group 139A, on the Royal Hort. Soc. Colour Chart, 1995.

Plants are available through Mr. Artis and have been produced for the greening of the Terre Haute, Indiana public space project by TNZ Nursery of Louisville, Kentucky and Pine View Nursery in Litchfield, Kentucky.

Selection of this cultivar was based on the clone's superior resistance to holly leaf miner and leaf spot disease and foliage a deeper green and glossier than many other *Ilex opaca* cultivars. Hardiness is rated at zone 5b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map of 1990 and has survived temperatures down to -31 F.

Voucher specimens are on deposit in the herbarium of the U.S. National Arboretum (NA), Washington, D.C. 20002.