

1-18 *Ilex opaca* 'Mission Oaks'

Female

Registered: November 26, 2018

Richard A. Larson on behalf of Albert Hendley

7770 Jacksontown Road

Newark, Ohio 43056

The selection originated as a chance seedling in September 2001, growing in a fenceline of a residence at 1724 Euclid Avenue in Zanesville, Ohio by its discoverer/namer Albert Hendley. The 4' seedling was subsequently moved to its present location at which time growth and durability have been continually observed.

The evergreen tree, now about seventeen years old, is 4 m (13 ft) tall, broadly conical in shape, with a spread 3.4 m (11 ft) and a herringbone branching habit. The leaves are typically 3.2 cm to 6.4 cm (1 1/4 – 2 1/2 in) long by 2.5cm to 5.1cm (1- 2 in) wide, simple coriaceous, and glabrous. Leaf shape is oval, with an acuminate apex and a cuneate base. Margins are convex, spinose in top view with 3 spines per side, with petiole lengths to 8 mm (5/16 in) and average yearly growth 1.2 dm to 1.8 dm (4 1/2 - 7 in). Leaf color is green, Green Group 139A on the Royal Hort. Soc. Colour Chart, 1995. Fruits are red, globose, Orange-Red Group 30A, 5mm to 8mm (3/16 – 5/16 in) in diameter, with peduncles to 1 mm (1/32 in).

Plants haven't been circulated, tested or evaluated for hardiness at this point. Selection was based on a strong central leader, a shape that is naturally pyramidal without pruning and a taxa that has been extremely fruitful yearly. It has typical gray buds and bark and a dark green color that holds well all year long. The taxa also has hardiness that has withstood exposure to southwest winds and winter sun. Hardiness on this species is rated at zone 5 on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map of 1990. The cultivar name was derived from its location at the entrance to Mission Oaks Park on Euclid Avenue in Zanesville, Ohio.

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