

2-15 *Ilex opaca* 'Uncle Sam'

Male

Registered: February 5, 2015

Sue Hunter

8957 Hickory Road

Felton, Pennsylvania 17322

The selection originated as a chance seedling, found in the nursery in Baltimore County in 1995. Ms. Hunter moved the taxa to her relocated nursery in Felton, Pennsylvania and has observed the tree since 1997, when it was propagated, grown on and distributed to the trade, by Heartwood Nursery, as a male companion to *Ilex opaca* 'Liberty Belle'.

The collected seedling is now a large evergreen tree, 5.2 m (17 ft) tall and a spread of 3 m (10 ft), with a herringbone branching habit and a conical shape.

Leaves of 'Uncle Sam' are simple, coriaceous, glabrous, with an ovate-elliptic shape and spinose margins and up to three spines on each side. The leaf apex is acuminate, with a rounded base and petioles to 1.3 cm (1/2 in) long. Leaves are large, up to 5.1 cm (2 in) by 3.8 cm (1 ½ in) wide, olive green, Green Group 144A above and Yellow-Green Group 146 C on the underside, on the Royal Hort. Soc. Colour Chart, 1995. Average year growth has been measured at 3.1 dm (1 ft) to 4.5 dm (1 ½ in).

Plants have been grown and sold to the nursery trade from Heartwood Nursery in Pennsylvania, since 1997, as the male companion to *Ilex opaca* 'Liberty Belle'. Selection was based on a fast growing cultivar with a nice tree form, smaller leaves than the straight species and easy to propagate. The cultivar name, 'Uncle Sam' goes with 'Liberty Belle' in the patriotic series of American holly introductions from Heartwood Nursery. Hardiness is rated at zone 5 on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map of 1990.

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

