

2-17 *Ilex cassine* 'Alpha Male'

Male

Registered: May 31, 2017

Albert Durio, Sr.

4747 I-49 South Service Road

Opelousas, Louisiana 70570

The selection originated as a chance seedling. The selector was selling seedling Dahoon holly for many years and decided to select the best female and male clones he could find. In 2001, seedlings were chosen by the selector and, in 2007, this clone was selected as the most worthy, after evaluation of several other clones. 'Alpha Male' was noted for its vigorous growth and the fact that some customers were requesting a non-fruiting holly for parking lot planting and other areas where they didn't want bird droppings. Also, this clone was also selected for its overall vigor and an appealing growth habit.

The evergreen tree, now ten years old, is 4.9 to 5.6 m (16 to 18 ft) tall, conical in shape, with a spread of 2.5 to 3.0 m (8 to 10 ft) and a herringbone branching habit. The leaves are typically 10 cm (4 in) by 3.2 cm (1¼ in), oblong in shape, with an acute apex, entire leaf margins, cuneate leaf base, and petioles to 4.1 cm (5⁄8 in) long. Average annual growth is estimated at 46 to 61 cm (18 to 24 in). Leaf color is Green Group 139 A on the Royal Hort. Soc. Colour Chart, 1995.

Plants have been grown and sold to the trade at Durio Growers, 4747 I-49 South Service Road, Opelousas, Louisiana during the past 3 to 4 years. Selection was based on the clone's overall vigor and appealing growth habit, which lends itself to easy shaping of the nice, lush lime-green foliage. Hardiness is rated at zone 7 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.



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