

2-18 *Ilex x aquipernyi* x ? 'Barbie Doll'

Female

Registered: December 16, 2018

James F. Resch on behalf of William Kuhl

5 Heather Loft Court

Bear, Delaware 19701

The selection originated as an open pollinated chance seedling which germinated beneath a specimen of *Ilex x aquipernyi* 'Meschick' at McLean Nurseries, 2000 Satyr Hill Road in Parkville, Maryland about 1998, by the discoverer, William Kuhl. It was moved to its present location where it has grown undisturbed. The male parent is unknown, but based on leaf characters of 'Barbie Doll', may be an *Ilex cornuta* or *cornuta x pernyi* type holly.

The evergreen shrub, now about twenty years old, is 2.5 m (8 ft) tall, rounded in shape, with a spread of 2.5 m (8 ft) and a horizontal branching habit. The leaves are typically 3.5 cm (1 3/8 in) long by 2.2 cm (5/8 in) wide, petioles to 3 mm (1/8 in), simple, coriaceous, and glabrous. Leaf shape is oval/quadrangular, with a strongly acuminate apex and a rounded to cuneate base. The leaves are stiff, keeled and twisted and are oval/quadrangular in shape. Leaf margins are undulate in side view and boldly spinose in top view. Leaf color is green, Green group N137A on the Royal Hort. Soc. Colour Chart, 2007. Fruits are red, oblong in shape and rounded in cross section, 9 mm (3/8 in) in diameter, Red Group 42A, with peduncles 3 mm (1/8 in). Fruits are typically borne singly.

Plants have been grown from rooted cuttings and circulated, tested and evaluated for hardiness, with long-term survival in zone 6b/7a been demonstrated. Rooted cuttings are available through William Kuhl of McLean Nurseries, Sue Hunter of Heartwood Nursery, and James Resch of Bear, Delaware.

The plant was named 'Barbie Doll' at the suggestion of Sue Hunter, in reference to the plant's exceedingly sharp spines, about 2 mm (1/16 in).

Selection of 'Barbie Doll' was based on its attractive foliage, featuring exceptionally sharp spines which confer remarkable resistance to deer browsing. When compared to the female parent *Ilex x aquipernyi* 'Meschick', the leaves of 'Barbie Doll' are more twisted, with more strongly recurved apices and much more pronounced spines. 'Barbie Doll' is also slower growing, with a more rounded habit.

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

