

## International *Ilex* Cultivar Registrations

By Michael R. Pontti  
Holly Registration Chair

The Registration Committee reviewed and accepted three new holly registrations in 2022 to the present. The following holly registrations are complete and Holly Certificates will be issued. The newly registered holly cultivar names are listed below.



Jim Resch

**1-22 *Ilex* x ‘Orange You Pretty’**

Female

Registered: January 1, 2022

James F. Resch

5 Heather Loft Ct

Bear, DE 19701

The selection originated as a chance putative hybrid seedling which germinated in the holly collection of James Resch in Bear, Delaware in early 2014. It was dug on July 24, 2014, and grown in containers (originally labeled as ‘Seedling 233’) for several years before planting out in 2019. The first flowers

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appeared in 2018, followed by unusual orange-red fruit. In 2020, the plant was named 'Orange You Pretty' in reference to that fruit color, and propagation was begun. The parentage of this selection is completely unknown, but the leaf shape closely resembles that of the female hybrid 'Elizabeth Coleman', which grows nearby.

The original plant is an upright, broadly conical evergreen tree, 1.5 m (5.0 ft) tall and 1.1 m (3.6 ft) wide after 7 years. The plant displays a horizontal branching habit. Annual new growth of about 20 cm (8") is typical.

The leaf texture is coriaceous, while the leaves are stiff and somewhat keeled. In top view, they are slightly curved. They are oval in shape, with the largest leaves up to 8.7 cm (3 1/2") long and 5.7 cm (2 1/4") wide. The bases are rounded. In side view, the leaf margins are flat. In top view, margins are spinose, with 3-4 spines per side. Apices are acuminate and not reflexed, and end in a sharp spine, 1 mm (1/32") long. Petioles are about 12 mm (1/2") long. Upper leaf surfaces are moderately glossy and somewhat bullate, dark green, Green Group 139A, (All color citations from Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2015) while lower leaf surfaces are dull green, Green Group 138A, with yellowish-green midribs.



Jim Resch

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Jim Resch

The plant bears pistillate flowers on second year growth, with flowering in mid-April to early May in Zone 7a, concurrent with such species as *I. cornuta* and *I. aquifolium*, as well as many interspecific hybrids of *I. latifolia*. After flowering, the pistils enlarge to form drupes which mature in November to Orange-Red 32A. These are rounded to slightly appressed in cross section and ellipsoid in side view, and measure 10 mm (13/32") long and 9 mm (11/32") wide. Fruits are borne in abundance, often in clusters, on peduncles 11 mm (7/16") long.

Propagation was begun in 2020, from semi-hardwood cuttings in August-September at ambient temperature, or in November with bottom heat. Plants grown from rooted cuttings were distributed through the Test Holly program in 2021. Hardiness in Zone 7a has been established, but is currently unknown outside this range.

'Orange You Pretty' bears some resemblance to the hybrid holly 'Elizabeth Coleman', but differs in having orange-red (rather than red) fruit. While the leaves of the two cultivars have similar size and shape, the leaves of 'Orange You Pretty' are more bullate, somewhat darker, and have more pronounced marginal spines. Selection of 'Orange You Pretty' was based primarily on the plant's heavy crops of unusually colored fruit.

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



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Jim Resch

**1-21 *Ilex* x 'Lady Spike'**

Female

Registered: December 7, 2021

William N. Kuhl

9000 Satyr Hill Road

Parkville, MD 21234

The selection originated as a chance putative hybrid seedling at McLean Nurseries in Parkville, Maryland, around 2012, and was selected by proprietor William N. Kuhl on account of its prominent apical and marginal spines, reminiscent of those on a juvenile *Osmanthus* leaf. The plant was kept in successively larger containers for several years, and originally named 'Spike' in reference to those spines. However, when the plant first bloomed in 2017 and proved to be female, it was renamed 'Lady Spike'. The parentage of this selection is completely unknown.

The largest existing clone is an upright, conical shrub, 1.8 m (6 ft) tall and 0.9 m (3 ft) wide after 6 years. The plant displays a herringbone branching habit. Annual new growth of about 15 cm (6") is typical.

The leaf texture is coriaceous, while the leaves are stiff, curled, and somewhat twisted. They are oval/quadrangular in shape, with the largest leaves up to 5.8 cm (2 1/4") long and 4.3 cm (1 3/4") wide. The bases are quite variable,

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from rounded to truncate, to occasionally emarginate. In side view, the leaf margins are somewhat undulate. In the top view, margins are boldly spinose, with 3-4 sharp, evenly spaced acuminate spines per side, each 3 mm (1/8") long. Apices are acuminate and reflexed, ending in a sharp spine, 3 mm (1/8") long. Petioles are short, up to 5 mm (3/16") long. Upper leaf surfaces are glossy and dark green, Greyed Green Group N189A, (All color citations from Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2015), while lower leaf surfaces are dull green, Green Group 138A. Summer growth flushes are typically dark maroon while still tender.

The plant bears pistillate flowers on second year growth, with flowering in mid to late April in Zone 7a, concurrent with such species as *I. cornuta* and *I. aquifolium*. After flowering, the pistils enlarge to form globose drupes, which progress from yellowish-green in late summer, through shades of orange, maturing in December to red, Red 44B. These are rounded in cross section and rounded in side view, and measure 9 mm (3/8") long and 9 mm (3/8") wide. Fruits are glossy and borne in abundance, on cymes of up to five fruits, on peduncles 5 mm (3/16") long.

Propagation was begun in 2015, from semi-hardwood cuttings in August-September at ambient temperature, or in November with bottom heat. Plants grown from rooted cuttings have been offered for sale at McLean Nurseries since 2016. Additionally, several fruit-bearing plants were distributed at the Holly Society annual meeting in Mendenhall, Pennsylvania in 2017. Hardiness in Zone 7a has been established, but is currently unknown outside this range.

Selection of 'Lady Spike' was based on the plant's remarkably spinose leaves and abundant fruiting, even on young rooted cuttings.

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



Jim Resch



## International *Ilex* Cultivar Registrations

### 2-22 *Ilex opaca* f. *xanthocarpa* ‘Golden Christmas Wreath’

Female

Registered: January 26, 2022

Parker Lewis Little

13171 Scotchtown Road

Beaverdam, Virginia 23015-1712



Parker Lewis Little

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The selection originated as a chance seedling found in the wild, in a wooded swamp with other *Ilex opaca*, near Deitz Road, Mount Lookout, West Virginia in Nicholas County, at 1840 feet elevation. The original tree, estimated at 60 years old, was toppled by a storm in the spring of 2004. Cuttings were taken, with the owner of the farm the tree was found on, in November 2004. Ten plants were subsequently propagated at Piping Tree Gardens & Nursery, 13171 Scotchtown Road in Beaverdam, Virginia, but not introduced in the trade.

The original plant was an upright, conical evergreen tree, 10.7 m (35 ft) tall by 2.5 m (8 ft) wide, with a herringbone branching habit. The average yearly growth was about 25.4 cm (10 in). The leaves are moderate olive green, elliptic, 8.9 cm (3.5 in) long by 4.5 cm (1.75 in) wide, bullate, curved, leaf apex is acuminate with rounded leaf bases, with an average of 3 spines on each side of the leaf, petioles 8-10 mm (5/16-3/8 in) long. Leaf color is Green Group 137B and fruits are Brilliant Orange Yellow 21B (both color citations from Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2015). Fruits are Brilliant Orange Yellow 21B, globose, 8mm (5/16 in) diameter, with pedicels 6-8 mm (3/16-5/16 in) long.

The selection was based on the color of orange-yellow fruit, and ‘Golden Christmas Wreath’ propagates easily and is a vigorous grower, tolerant of cold wet swampland and full sun in hardiness zone 7a on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, of 1990. Suspected tolerant of at least zone 5b. The leaves of this cultivar appear to be most similar to the leaves of an old cultivar named in 1956 by legendary hollyophile, Jesse D. Rankin: *Ilex opaca* ‘Helen Mitchell’.

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



## SPONSOR YOUR FAVORITE HOLLY

By Sue Hunter

Do you have a holly that you admire more than others? Perhaps there’s a stately specimen of a “named” variety that you or someone you know has long appreciated, or a relatively new plant that you’re observing as it grows.

Consider sponsoring your choice and having your specimen recognized by the Holly Society of America. This is different than a holly registration.

Contact Sue Hunter for information: 717-779-6516.

*Ilex pedunculosa*



Sue Hunter



## International *Ilex* Cultivar Registrations

### 3-22 *Ilex opaca* 'Little's Sparkling Princess'

Registered: January 27, 2022

Parker Lewis Little  
13171 Scotchtown Road  
Beaverdam, Virginia 23015-1712

Female



Parker Lewis Little

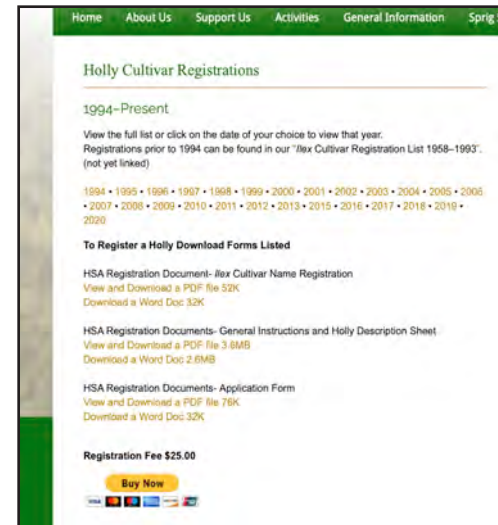
## International *Ilex* Cultivar Registrations

The selection originated as a chance seedling found in the wild, in a small wooded swampy area at elevation 240 ft, along with *Ilex opaca*, *Acer rubrum*, and *Liquidambar styraciflua*, at 13171 Scotchtown Road in Beaverdam, Virginia (Hanover County). The original evergreen tree, estimated to be about 30 years, was 8.2 m (27 ft) high by 3.7 m (12 ft) with a conical shape and a horizontal branching habit. The leaves are moderate olive green, Green Group 137A, (All color citations from Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2015), elliptic, 8.5 cm (3 3/8 in) long by 4.0 cm (1 9/16 in) wide, curved and keeled; leaf apex is acuminate with rounded leaf bases, leaf margins are flat in side view, and spinose in top view, with an average of two small spines on the upper portion of the leaf. The petiole length is 1.0 cm (3/8 in), with an average yearly growth of 17.78 cm (7 in).

The fruits are vivid red, Red Group 45B, broadly elliptic, to 8.0 mm (5/16 in) by 10 mm (3/8 in) long, with pedicels to 9mm (3/8 in), borne singly.

The selection was based on the glossy red fruit, hardiness noted to -13 degrees F, and an ornamental quality of the fruit with foliage.

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



## Holly Cultivar Registrations

Visit the website for a full list registrations from 1954 -2020.

## Holly Registration

Application Form also available for download.

[hollysocam.org/registrations.htm](http://hollysocam.org/registrations.htm)