

International *Ilex* Cultivar Registrations

By Michael R. Pontti
Holly Registration Chair

The Registration Committee reviewed and accepted three new holly registrations in 2019/2020 to the present. The following holly registrations are complete and Holly Certificates will be issued. The newly registered holly cultivar names are listed below.



Sue Hunter

7-19 *Ilex opaca* 'Forest Totem'

Female

Registered: December 30, 2019

Susan Hunter

8957 Hickory Road

Felton, Pennsylvania 17322

The original plant, now nearly nine years old, was a chance seedling collected in an open field on an island in the Susquehanna River near Holtwood, Pennsylvania.

The original plant is an upright columnar to fastigiata tree approximately 4.6 m (15 ft) tall and 92 cm-1.2 m (3 – 4 ft) wide. The plant displays a fastigiata branching habit. On mature trees, annual growth of about 25-30 cm (10-12 inches) on the leader and on lateral branch tips is typical.

The leaf texture is coriaceous, while the leaves are flat in cross section to slightly keeled, and glabrous. They are oblong in shape, with the largest leaves up to 13 cm (5 in) long by 5.8 cm (2 1/4 in) wide. The leaf bases are rounded. Margins are generally slightly undulate to convex in side view, with 4 spines per side. Apices are aristate, with a tip spine of 2-3 mm (1/16-1/8 in). Petioles are up to 9 mm (3/8 in) long. Upper leaf surfaces are yellow green in color, Yellow Green Group N138B on the Royal Hort. Society Colour Chart of 2015.

The plant bears pistillate flowers on 1st year growth, as is typical for *Ilex opaca*. After flowering, the pistils of ‘Forest Totem’ enlarge to become globose drupes, which ripen in November to fruit of a dark red color, Red Group 44A on the Royal Hort. Society Colour Chart of 2015. Fruits are rounded in side view and rounded in cross section, and measure 8 mm (5/16 in) long by 7 mm (1/4 in), with peduncles 5 mm (3/16 in). Fruits are typically borne singly.

Long-term survival in Zone 6b/7a has been demonstrated. Plants have been grown from rooted cuttings by Sue Hunter of Heartwood Nursery of Felton, Pennsylvania, since 2011, and evaluated for hardiness and consistency in growth habit.

‘Forest Totem’ was selected based on its upright columnar shape, fastigiate branching and growth habit and a leaf longer than typical for the species. Voucher specimens are on deposit in the herbarium of the U.S. National Arboretum (NA), Washington, D.C. 20002.

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8-19 *Ilex opaca* ‘Sundown’

Female

Registered: December 31, 2019

Susan Hunter

8957 Hickory Road

Felton, Pennsylvania 17322

The original plant, now nearly twelve years old, was a chance seedling collected in an open field near Felton, Pennsylvania, and Heartwood Nursery.

The original plant has a conical shape, approximately 4.3m (14 ft) tall and 1.5m (5 ft) wide. The plant displays a horizontal or herringbone branching habit. On mature trees, annual growth of about 25-30 cm (10-12 in) on the leader and on lateral branch tips is typical.

The leaf texture is coriaceous, while the leaves are flat in cross section to slightly keeled, and glabrous. They are oval in shape, with the largest leaves up to 14 cm (5 1/2 in) long by 8.3 cm (3 1/4 in) wide. The leaf bases are cuneate. Margins (side view) are generally undulate and spinose (top view) with five spines per side, and petioles to 1.3 cm (1/2 in). Apices are acuminate, with a tip spine of 2-3 mm (1/16 – 1/8 in). Petioles are up to 1.3 cm (1/2 in) long. Upper leaf surfaces are moderately yellowish green, 139B on the Royal Hort. Society Colour Chart of 2015.

The plant bears pistillate flowers on 1st year growth, as is typical for *Ilex opaca*.



Sue Hunter

After flowering, the pistils of ‘Sundown’ enlarge to become globose drupes, which ripen in November to fruit of a vivid reddish orange, Red Group 44B on the Royal Hort. Society Colour Chart of 2015. Fruits are rounded in side view and rounded in cross section, and measure 11 mm (7/16 in) wide and long, with peduncles 7 mm (1/4 in). Fruits are typically borne singly.

Long-term survival in Zone 6b/7a has been demonstrated. Plants have been grown from rooted cuttings by Sue Hunter of Heartwood Nursery of Felton, Pennsylvania, since 2017, and evaluated for hardiness and consistency in growth habit.

‘Sundown’ was selected, based on its dense branching habit, darker than usual leaf color, consistent heavy berry set and larger than typical fruit.

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

**1-20 *Ilex* [*aquifolium* 'Lewis' x (*cornuta* x *pernyi*)
'John T. Morris'] 'Irish Eyes'**

Female

Registered: January 10, 2020

James F. Resch

5 Heather Loft Court

Bear, Delaware 19701



Jim Resch

The original plant germinated as a chance seedling, beneath the female *Ilex aquifolium* 'Lewis' on his property in Bear, Delaware, during the summer of 2008. The seedling showed exceptionally dark green and glossy foliage, and because of its promising appearance was dug and moved to a container in October 2008. It has since been planted in the landscape at the edge of a wooded area. The name 'Irish Eyes' was chosen in reference to the deep green color of the plant's foliage. The male parent of 'Irish Eyes' is presumed to be a nearby *Ilex cornuta* x *pernyi* 'John T. Morris', which bloomed heavily and with an overlapping blooming period to that of 'Lewis' in the preceding years. Assuming this to be correct, the proposed name of the hybrid would be: *Ilex* [*aquifolium* 'Lewis' x (*cornuta* x *pernyi*) 'John T. Morris'] 'Irish Eyes'.



The original parent plant is an evergreen, conical shrub, currently 1.8 m (68 in) tall and 1.3 m (52 in) wide, with a trunk diameter of 3.8 cm (1.5 in) at eleven years old. The plant also displays a herringbone branching habit.

The leaves of 'Irish Eyes' are obovate/quadrangular, up to 5.1 cm (2 in) long and 3.5 cm (1 3/8 in) wide. Margins in top view are spinose, typically with two sharp spines per side. In side view, the leaves are slightly convex. Apices are acute, with a sharp apical spine of 1 mm (1/32 in), with the tip moderately reflexed. The bases are rounded. Leaves are coriaceous, very glossy, and a deep green color, Green Group N137A

on the Royal Hort. Society Colour Chart of 2007, but this color may darken further during the cold winter months. Petioles are 4 mm (3/16 in) long.

The plant bears pistillate flowers with 4 yellowish-white petals and 4 underdeveloped stamens each, fasciculate, and borne in leaf axils on 2nd year growth. Flowering typically begins in April in Zone 7a and is therefore early in the holly flowering season. *Ilex* males with overlapping blooming periods include *I. cornuta* x *pernyi* and *I. x merserveae* hybrids, as well as *I. cornuta* and *I. aquifolium*. After flowering, the pistils of 'Irish Eyes' enlarge to become globose drupes, which ripen in November to a glossy fruit of a bright red color, Red Group 44B on the Royal Hort. Society Colour Chart of 2007. Fruits are globose, rounded in both cross-sectional and longitudinal view, and measure 8 mm (5/16 in) in diameter, on peduncles which are 5 mm (3/16 in) long. Fruits are typically borne in groups of three, in dense clusters up to 10 cm (4 in) long along the stem. Fruiting often begins in the first year of rooted cuttings.

Annual growth of about 15 cm (6 in) on the leader and on lateral branch tips is typical.

The plant has been grown in Zone 7a with no winter damage, but has not been fully evaluated for hardiness in colder zones.

'Irish Eyes' was selected based on its distinctively dark and glossy foliage, accented with bright red fruits. The leaf size is intermediate between that of *I. aquifolium* 'Lewis' and *I. cornuta* x *pernyi* 'John T. Morris', the putative parents.

In comparison to *I. cornuta* x *pernyi* hybrids ('Lydia Morris', 'John T. Morris', 'Doctor Kassab' and 'Hugger'), the leaves of 'Irish Eyes' are darker and somewhat larger, and the apical spines are less reflexed. The leaf shape and size of 'Irish Eyes' are somewhat similar to 'Pernella', another putative hybrid of *I. aquifolium* and *I. cornuta* x *pernyi*, but the leaves of 'Irish Eyes' are glossier and a darker color. Voucher specimens are on deposit in the herbarium of the U. S. National Arboretum (NA), Washington, D.C. 20002.