

# Plant "Imagination"

## *Winter Red Hollies,*

### The Cold Hardest of All Holly Varieties



Winter Red Hollies are breaking the stereotypes that suggest hollies will only flourish in the south, because they have an extremely high tolerance for freezing temperatures as well as heavy layers of ice and snow.

Most holly varieties can only tolerate the cold temperatures in growing zone 6, but Winter Red Hollies will flourish up in growing zone 3, with temperatures that dip down to -30 degrees.

Winter Red Hollies do more than survive northern climates because they flourish with astonishing beauty. Every fall these deciduous hollies develop vibrant red berries that pop against the hollies' foliage, before the leaves drop and reveal the main attraction in the winter.

Bright red berries pop on bare stems without leaves to take away from their vibrant hue. They glow in the landscape, providing bursts of color in the empty winter countryside.

Clip a few branches and bring them inside for beautiful winter and holiday decorations. The branches and berries look great when arranged in centerpieces, and when crafted into wreaths.

The berries are an ample food source for birds during the winter. The bright red berries attract cardinals, blue jays and more to perch on the branches and grab a quick snack, causing this shrub to be a must have for wildlife enthusiasts.

In the spring when new growth first emerges, it's a dark burgundy color. As the long, oval shaped, waxy leaves mature they turn a shade of dark green. This colorful transition is a delight to watch.

Winter Red Hollies are compact shrubs that only grow 6 to 8 feet tall and wide, so they'll fit perfectly as ornamental shrubs in smaller areas. They are perfect for accenting gardens and framing porches.

They can also be planted in a row to form a dense privacy screen. Once planted close together, their thick foliage will fill in to form a living wall that eyes can't penetrate.