

Botanical Name: Comarostaphylis diversifolia

Common Name: Summer holly

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub/tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, mostly single-trunked plant, with dense branching to form an oval or rounded full canopy; older plants resemble Toyon, but have a distinctive swollen basal burl

Height 5' - 15' (20') Spread 2/3 to equal Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors prefers full sun; tolerates some shade inland

Soil tolerates most; thrives in deep clay loam habitats

Hardiness (zones 14-24); adapts best to warm low-elevation locations with marine influenced climate

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, oblong to elliptic, leathery; 3/4"-3"

long, dark green above, pale green/tomentose beneath; margins strongly revolute and somewhat finely serrate

Flowers white, urn-shaped (resembling manzanita flowers), in mostly terminal clusters or racemes; April - June

Fruit a berry; round, red, 1/4" diameter, with warty surface

Propagation: seed

Usage: an accent small tree or a large shrub, valued for its

attractive display of both flowers and fruit; large screen or background

plantings; good for slope plantings in sunny dry locales

Landscape Care:

Watering periodic deep-soak irrigation, especially in summer; avoid shallow watering

Fertilizing as needed; little is needed after establishment

Pruning to shape desired; head high if a tree shape is wanted; selectively head back to promote full, dense growth

Pests/Diseases relatively free

Special Conditions the fleshy berries attract many birds

Origin: So. Ca/Baja Family: Ericaceae