

Botanical Name: Heteromeles arbutifolia

Common Name: Toyon, California holly

Type of Plant: dicot: tree/shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, multi-trunked plant, with branches growing upwards and outwards to form a dense rounded canopy; remains shrubby in dry, sunny locations, becomes more open in moist or shaded locations

Height 10-20' (30') Spread equal Growth Rate moderate-fast

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred; tolerates partial

Soil well-draining, somewhat dry soils; sensitive to wet

Hardiness hardy (zones 5-24); prefers coastal foothill/valleys

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate (sometimes whorled at tips of branches), elliptic-oblong; serrate margins, 2-4" long, leathery, dark green, pale below

Flowers white, tiny (1/4" across) in terminal panicle-clusters; April-September

Fruit a small pome; pale to bright red, ovoid, 1/4" long

Propagation: seed (plant directly when ripe, remove outer pulp)

Usage: an excellent small accent tree for its form, foliage, flowers and fruit; usable as patio tree or espalier; large background shrub mass or screen; good on slopes for erosion control

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak is preferred; becomes very drought-tolerant after established; avoid lawn watering unless drainage is excellent

Fertilizing little required except where frequently watered

Pruning as a tree, head high; thin out for picturesque shape

Pests/Diseases relatively free, may get bacterial fireblight

Special Conditions

Origin: So.CA & Baja Family: Rosaceae