

Botanical Name: Prunus ilicifolia

Common Name: Hollyleaf Cherry, Islay

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub/tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, densely branching plant, forming an oval to rounded canopy; older plants become more treelike with a sturdy trunk and primary branches

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

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun preferred; tolerates partial; thrives inland

Soil prefers well-draining, drier soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 7-9, 14-24):can tolerate frosts to 4000'

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, alternate, broadly oval-elliptic; leathery, medium to dark green, with distinctive toothed margins; 1"-2" long

Flowers creamy white, small, in terminal racemes 1"-2" long;
May - June

Fruit a drupe; dark maroon-red, to black, 1/2" diameter; fleshy

Propagation: seed

Usage: background, screens or loose tall hedges, valued for its heavy bloom and clean foliage; can be easily developed into a small accent tree (for form) with pruning; can be trained as a formal hedge

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers an infrequent deep soaking after establishment;
is very drought tolerant

Fertilizing little needed

Pruning to shape desired; for best flower production, wait until blooming season has ended (summer)

Pests/Diseases aphids, scale in heavily shaded locations; very resistant to oak root fungus

Special Conditions

Origin: So. Cal/Baja Family: Rosaceae