



Ilex x aquipernyi DRAGON LADY

('Meschick')



Height	3 - 6 m
Width	2-3m
Crown	pyramidal, dark, dense crown
Bark and branches	young twigs dark green, bark green-brown, smooth
Leaf	oval, glossy dark green, very spiky, 4 - 6 cm, evergreen
Flowers	♀, white, inconspicuous, solitar ♂ in the leaf axils, May/June
Fruits	fleshy drupe, 6 - 8 mm, vivid red
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	has toxic components
Soil type	humic, moist but well-drained soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	6b (-20,5 to -17,8 °C)
Wind resistance	very good
Other resistances	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind
Fauna tree	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind, provides food for birds
Application	tree containers, roof gardens, coastal areas, small gardens, patio gardens
Shape	clearstem tree, feathered tree, multi-stem tree

Small tree with a very regular, densely branching, pyramidal crown, about 3 - 6 m tall. Young twigs are dark green, mature bark is green-brown and smooth. The glossy dark green leaves are oval to almost rectangular, with downward-curling tips. They are 3 - 5 cm long and about half as wide. The margins are very undulate, with 4 - 6 strong, sharp prickles. The flowers are small, fairly inconspicuous and female. They are followed by vibrant red berries 6 - 8 mm across. Sometimes attributed to the hybrid *I. x meserveae*, but originated from a cross between *I. aquifolium* and *I. pernyi*. Prefers a humic, moist but well-drained soil and tolerates either acidic or calcareous soil. As well as its use in parks and gardens it is also suitable for use as a narrow hedge.