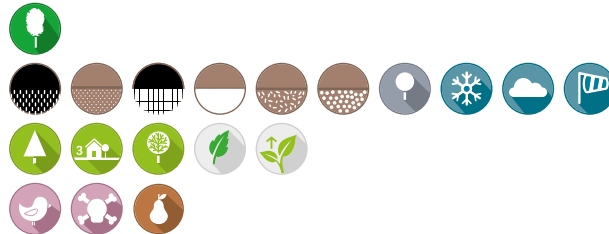




## Ilex aquifolium



<b>Height</b>	5 - 10 (15) m
<b>Width</b>	3-5m
<b>Crown</b>	pyramidal to broad oval, dark, dense crown
<b>Bark and branches</b>	twigs green, bark light green-brown, smooth
<b>Leaf</b>	oval to elongated ovate, glossy dark green, margin undulate and spiky, 3.5 - 8 cm, evergreen
<b>Flowers</b>	unisexual, white, in clusters in the leaf axils, May/June
<b>Fruits</b>	fleshy drupe, about 5 mm, red
<b>Spines/thorns</b>	None
<b>Toxicity</b>	has toxic components
<b>Soil type</b>	humic, moist but well-drained soil
<b>Paving</b>	tolerates no paving
<b>Winter hardiness zone</b>	6b (-20,5 to -17,8 °C)
<b>Wind resistance</b>	very good
<b>Other resistances</b>	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind
<b>Fauna tree</b>	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind, provides food for birds
<b>Application</b>	tree containers, roof gardens, coastal areas, small gardens, patio gardens
<b>Shape</b>	clearstem tree
<b>Origin</b>	Western, central and southern Europe, North Africa and Middle East

Grows from a shrub into a small or medium-size tree with a pyramidal to broad oval crown. The crown branches very densely. This effect is reinforced by the tough, evergreen leaf. The leaves are glossy dark green and have a very undulate margin with several pronounced prickles. The flowers are small and inconspicuous. They are hermaphroditic. The female flowers are followed by glossy red, fleshy drupes (commonly called 'berries'). The Common holly is indigenous to western Europe and an important tree in the cultural history of various peoples. Prefers a humic, moist but well-drained soil and tolerates either acidic or calcareous soil. *I. aquifolium* is an excellent hedge plant as well as being used as a park tree, in narrow streets and in gardens. Dozens of cultivars have been named, many of which have variegated leaves.