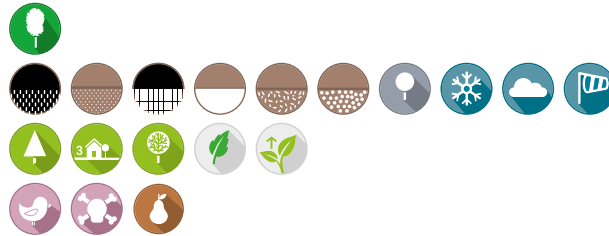




Ilex aquifolium



Height	5 - 10 (15) m
Width	3-5m
Crown	pyramidal to broad oval, dark, dense crown
Bark and branches	twigs green, bark light green-brown, smooth
Leaf	oval to elongated ovate, glossy dark green, margin undulate and spiky, 3.5 - 8 cm, evergreen
Flowers	unisexual, white, in clusters in the leaf axils, May/June
Fruits	fleshy drupe, about 5 mm, 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
Origin	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.