

Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens' Nellie R. Stevens Holly

Mature Height (ft.):	20 to 30
Spread (ft.):	10 to 15
Growth Rate:	Moderate to fast
Exposure:	Sun to shade
Flower:	Inconspicuous
Fruit:	Bright red single berries or in clusters (very showy)
Color:	Lustrous dark green

Nellie R. Stevens holly is an upright hybrid broadleaf evergreen tree that retains the best traits of both parents - European holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Chinese holly (*Ilex cornuta*). The tree has a neat pyramidal shape with lustrous dark green leaves and an abundance of striking red berries. The tree grows quickly and maintains its attractive shape with minimal pruning. The branches of this tree are moderately resistant to breakage, but the thin bark can be easily damaged with maintenance equipment. This is typically not a problem as the leaf coverage is extremely dense. Training as a single trunk may assist in the prevention of breakage due to snow or ice storms.

The leaves are thick and waxy, and are lined with serrated edges, or 'teeth,' often seen on hollies. A male with similar bloom time, such as the Chinese holly, is necessary in the area to ensure pollination and abundant fruit production. The fleshy half-inch berries are very attractive on the tree in winter. The fruiting tree provides both habitat and food for several varieties of birds, including robins and woodpeckers.

Nellie Stevens prefers well-drained, acidic soil but is adapted to a wide variety of soil conditions. The tree appears to tolerate urban conditions such as air pollution, compacted soils, and poor drainage. The tree is moderately drought tolerant once established and will also tolerate some flooding.

Practically maintenance, disease, and pest free, this tree is ideal for use in a variety of settings. It is lovely as a specimen tree in the landscape or in containers. It is also very well adapted for use as a protective buffer or screen. It can be used in a mixed row with other plants that attract birds.

