

Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens'

'Nellie R. Stevens' Holly

Nellie R. Stevens Holly has lustrous, dark green leaves and abundant red berry production. Blooms tiny white flowers in spring. Leaves are among the darkest of any plant. Vigorous and fast-growing, this Holly quickly grows into an attractive, broad pyramidal-shaped evergreen, 20 to 30 feet high and 10 to 12 feet wide.

USDA zones: 6-9

Uses: container or above-ground planter; hedge; large

Height: 20 to 30 feet

Spread: 10 to 12 feet

Growth rate: medium

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline;

acidic; extended flooding; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the

Nellie R. Stevens Holly should be grown in full

sun or partial shade on well-drained, slightly acid soil.

Plants are drought-resistant once established.

Pruning Young Plants

Young "Nellie Stevens" hollies are those that are less than 10 years old. A good time to prune young plants is early spring. Although "Nellie Stevens" hollies are hardy in freezing temperatures, the bare stems of young pruned plants are susceptible to frost. Pruning in early spring allows new growth at the pruning sites to develop before the onset of winter, protecting the tender stems.