Stoplight Winterberry

Ilex verticillata 'Stoplight'



Stoplight Winterberry fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Stoplight Winterberry fruit
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Height: 8 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Hopperton Winterberry, Black Alder

Description:

A deciduous holly valued for its colorful, deep red berries which last throughout winter; Jim Dandy is the recommended male pollinator; upright growth habit, suckers into colonies; requires moist to wet acidic soils; excellent when massed

Ornamental Features

Stoplight Winterberry is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent dark red berries from mid fall to late winter. It has forest green deciduous foliage. The glossy pointy leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Stoplight Winterberry is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Stoplight Winterberry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Stoplight Winterberry will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more. This variety requires a different selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.