



Nellie R. Stevens Holly

Ilex 'Nellie R. Stevens'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ☉ ☐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Description:

This is a large, fast-growing holly with a natural pyramidal shape. Its prickly, dense foliage provides an excellent screen. Large red-orange berries in winter attract birds.

Ornamental Features

Nellie R. Stevens Holly is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent red berries from late fall to mid winter. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The spiny oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Nellie R. Stevens Holly is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen tree with a distinctive and refined pyramidal 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 is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It is a good choice for attracting birds and bees to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Nellie R. Stevens Holly is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Nellie R. Stevens Holly fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Nellie R. Stevens Holly
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Nellie R. Stevens Holly will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.



Nellie R. Stevens Holly foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder