

# Japanese Holly

## *Ilex crenata* 'Sky Pencil'

'Sky Pencil' is a unique form of Japanese holly. The pencil-thin growth habit and lustrous, dark evergreen leaves provide a reliable vertical accent in the landscape. Even the smallest of spaces can accommodate this excellent and durable holly. It's form narrows toward the top and has upright, usually clustered branches that it maintains without pruning. It is a good container or accent plant and works well in formal gardens. The crown is fuller in full sun. The small fragrant flowers attract bees. This plant needs protection from the wind and cold with a wind break and mulching. It appears to adapt well to the confined spaces of urban and downtown landscapes and is tolerant of some salt spray.

**Type:** evergreen shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6 through 9

**Uses:** specimen; container or planter; accent; narrow hedge

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 3 to 10 feet      **Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Light requirement:** part shade to full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; slightly acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

**Invasive potential:** low

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

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Photo: Jim Robbins, NC State Extension