

Yaupon Holly

Ilex vomitoria

Wild yaupons are protected by Florida statute. A tough native of the southern United States, yaupon holly grows quickly in a variety of locations, from full sun or shade to seaside or swamps, in sand or clay. It is easy and durable, low maintenance, and one of the most adaptable of the small-leaved evergreen hollies. There are “standard” forms and “weeping” forms. It grows well throughout its range. Plants in the landscape require about 10 years to develop a distinct vase-shape. The non-showy male and female flowers appear on separate plants and are followed on the female plants by the production of brilliant red berries (yellow on some cultivars) which are quite attractive to wildlife. The flowers attract bees for several weeks. Purchase plants with berries on them (females) if you want a berry-producing plant, or buy trees which were propagated from cuttings of female plants.

Type: evergreen shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 7a through 9b

Uses: espalier; hedge; deck or patio; screen; specimen; container or planter; bonsai

Origin: native to Florida

Height: 15 to 25 feet **Spread:** 15 to 20 feet

Plant spacing: 8 feet

Light requirement: full sun to full shade

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; wet to well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: high

Invasive potential: native

Pest resistance: resistant to pests and diseases

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Photo: UF/ IFAS, Edward Gilman