Gold Tip Japanese Holly

Ilex crenata 'Gold Tip'



Gold Tip Japanese Holly foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Box-leaved Holly

Description:

Valued for its attractive golden evergreen foliage on the upper branches; its conical growth habit makes it perfect as a landscape accent; can be sheared for a formal appearance

Ornamental Features

Gold Tip Japanese Holly is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent black berries in mid fall. It has attractive gold-tipped dark green foliage which emerges yellow in spring. The small glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Gold Tip Japanese Holly is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and bees to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Gold Tip Japanese Holly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Gold Tip Japanese Holly will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

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 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.