

AQUIFOLIACEAE – HOLLY FAMILY

Plant: shrubs and small trees

Stem:

Root:

Leaves: simple, alternate or rarely opposite or whorled, usually leathery and often evergreen, often toothed or spiny; tiny stipules or none

Flowers: perfect or more often imperfect (dioecious); small, white to green from axils of twigs; sepals 4-8 and tiny; 4-8 rounded petals, often whitish; 4-8 stamens; ovary superior, 1 pistil, 3 to many fused carpels, 1 style (reduced)

Fruit: fleshy berry or drupe, 3-5 nutlets, often red, very small, oily

Other: worldwide; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 4 genera; locally *Ilex* (holly), *Nemopanthus* (mountain holly)

AQUIFOLIACEAE – HOLLY FAMILY

American Holly; *Ilex opaca* Aiton var. *opaca*

Common Winterberry (Black Alder); *Ilex verticillata* (L.) Gray

American Holly

Ilex opaca Aiton var. *opaca*
Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: shrub or small tree; flowers solitary or in clusters, small, white to greenish white; leaves ovate, shiny upper surface, thick and leathery, evergreen, toothed with spines; bark light gray; fruit a red drupe; probably a southern transplant to northern Ohio

[V Max Brown, 2006]



Common Winterberry (Black Alder)

Ilex verticillata (L.) Gray

Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: shrub; flowers in small clusters, white to greenish white, small sepals lobed and ciliate; leaves thin, elliptical to ovate, toothed (no spines), deciduous, usually with acute tip, densely pubescent or not beneath (varieties); bark light to dark gray; fruit a red berry often lasting into winter; wet areas in woods and swamps; early summer

[V Max Brown, 2007]

