

DWARF YAUPON HOLLEY

Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'



Characteristics

- Type: Shrub
- Zone: 7 to 9
- Height: 3.00 to 5.00 feet
- Spread: 3.00 to 6.00 feet
- Bloom Time: April
- Bloom Description: Greenish white
- Sun: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Medium to wet
- Maintenance: Medium
- Suggested Use: Rain Garden
- Flower: Showy, Fragrant
- Leaf: Evergreen
- Attracts: Birds
- Fruit: Showy
- Other: Winter Interest
- Tolerate: Air Pollution

Culture

Grow in average, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. In its native habitat, it grows in dry to wet conditions, in a variety of soils and in sun or shade. It generally tolerates more drought than most other hollies. It is a popular landscape plant in the southeastern U.S. Prune in winter if needed. Plants of this species are dioecious (separate male and female plants). Female plants need a male pollinator in the area in order to bear fruit. Promptly remove root suckers unless naturalization is desired.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Ilex vomitoria, commonly known as Yaupon, is native to a variety of areas including sandy woods, dunes, open fields, forest edges and wet swamps, often along the coastal plain and maritime forests, from Virginia to Florida, Arkansas and Texas. 'Nana' is a dense rounded shrub that is a dwarf cultivar of the species. It has 0.5-1.5 in. long, dark green leaves that are yellow-green when new. If pollinated, the small greenish white flowers on female shrubs will mature into persistent red drupes, although they are not as common or as striking as those of the species. 'Nana' grows 3 to 5 ft. tall and 3 to 6 ft. wide. Flowers are fragrant but generally inconspicuous. Pollinated flowers on female plants give way to berry-like red (infrequently yellow) fruits (1/4" diameter) which ripen in fall and persist into winter. Birds are attracted to the fruit. Native American Indians used the leaves to make a ceremonial emetic drink which, when consumed in large quantities, caused a cleansing now memorialized by the specific epithet. Genus name comes from the Latin name *Quercus ilex* for holm oak in reference to the foliage similarities (holm oak and many of the shrubs in the genus *Ilex* have evergreen leaves).

Problems

In their native habitat, plants have good resistance to insects and diseases. Potential insect problems include holly leaf miner, spider mites, whitefly and scale. Potential disease problems include leaf spot, leaf rot, tar spot and powdery mildew.

Garden Uses

Very popular in the deep South where it is often used as a hedge, screen, windbreak or barrier. Topiary.