


# Ilex glabra

## Inkberry

Tried and True  
Native Plant Selections  
for the Mid-Atlantic

This **native\*** holly of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains displays lustrous evergreen foliage, which, along with its adaptability to varying light and moisture conditions, makes it a desirable alternative to finicky boxwoods. Wildlife favor its fruit and honey bees its nectar.



Shrub	Shrubs, Flowers, Fruit & Leaves
Height: 6–10 feet	
Spread: 6–12 feet	
Bloom Color: Greenish white	
<b>Characteristics</b>	
<a href="#">Evergreen</a> with rounded to broad spreading form	 
<a href="#">Dioecious</a> : separate male and female plants	
<a href="#">Alternate</a> , simple, glossy, ovate leaves, dark green above & paler below with finely toothed tips	
Small, fragrant, solitary flowers or <a href="#">cymes</a> May–June	
Small, black, berry-like <a href="#">drupes</a> from September to March; male plant needed for females to bear fruit	
Spreads by <a href="#">root suckers</a> to form colonies	
<b>Attributes</b>	
Tolerates shade, dry soil, wet soil, some salt, and air pollution; dislikes alkaline soil	
No serious pests or diseases but may develop leaf spot; <a href="#">deer</a> seldom severely damage	
Gallberry honey produced from nectar	
Attracts bees to nectar; 15 bird species and small mammals to the fruit; <a href="#">larval</a> host to Henry's Elfyn	
<b>Growing and Maintenance Tips</b>	<b>Excellent Replacement for</b>
<a href="#">Soil Requirements</a> : Well-drained, acidic	<a href="#">Barberis thunbergii</a> - Japanese Barberry
<a href="#">Light Requirements</a> : Sun, Partial Shade	<a href="#">Buxus species</a> - Boxwood
<a href="#">Water Requirements</a> : Moist, Wet	<a href="#">Elaeagnus umbellata</a> - Autumn Olive
Protect from harsh winter exposure; prune to shape in spring before new growth appears	<a href="#">Ligustrum japonicum &amp; L. sinense</a> - Privets
Use as a border, hedge, or for erosion control	<a href="#">Mahonia bealei</a> - Leatherleaf Mahonia
<a href="#">Hardiness</a> : USDA Zones 5–9	<a href="#">Nandina domestica</a> - Nandina
	<a href="#">Viburnum</a> species - Asian Viburnums
	*In DE and MD, it is common in the Coastal Plain. It is extirpated in PA. In VA, it is frequent to locally common in the south and central Coastal Plain; rare in the Piedmont; and not native to NoVA.

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, landscaping at Adventist HealthCare, Rockville, MD and private garden, Arlington, VA



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