**Ilex verticillata**  
**Winterberry**

The bright-red berries of this deciduous shrub persist after the leaves have fallen, providing stunning winter color. As with all *Ilex* species, the females of this holly produce fruit only if a male is growing nearby. It tolerates wet, clay soil as well as average soil. A late winter food source for many birds, plant near the house for up-close viewing.

- **Hardiness:** Zones 3–9  
- **Light:** Sun to part shade  
- **Soil:** Average to moist acidic soil  
- **Size:** 6–10’ tall  
- **Foliage:** Dark-green toothed, ovate to elliptical leaves  
- **Flowers:** Greenish white, inconspicuous  
- **Fruit:** Red berries (on females)  
- **Bloom Time:** Late spring  
- **Wildlife Value:** Birds use for nesting and late winter food source; nectar source for bees; larval host to Henry’s elfin butterfly

Photos: Julie Makin, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (top); The Native Plant Center