



THE NATIVE PLANT CENTER

2016 Native Woody of the Year



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