



Ilex cassine 'Angustifolia' 'Angustifolia' Dahoon Holly¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

INTRODUCTION

'Angustifolia' Dahoon Holly has narrower, more linear leaves than the species and more berries (Fig. 1). Attractive when tightly clipped into a tall screen or allowed to grow naturally into its single or multi-trunked, small-tree form, 'Angustifolia' Dahoon Holly is ideal for a variety of landscape settings. Capable of reaching 40 feet in height, it is usually seen at a height of 20 to 30 feet with a 10 to 18-foot spread. The smooth, supple, shiny, dark green, evergreen leaves, two to three inches long, have just a few serrations near the tip. Possessing male and female flowers on separate plants, at least two 'Angustifolia' Dahoon Hollies must be planted in the landscape to ensure production of the brilliant red, sometimes yellow, small berries in fall and winter. The berries serve as an excellent food source for wildlife.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Ilex cassine* 'Angustifolia'

Pronunciation: EYE-lecks kuh-SIGH-nee

Common name(s): 'Angustifolia' Dahoon Holly

Family: *Aquifoliaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 11 (Fig. 2)

Origin: native to North America

Uses: Bonsai; container or above-ground planter; hedge; wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; reclamation plant; screen; narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; no proven urban tolerance

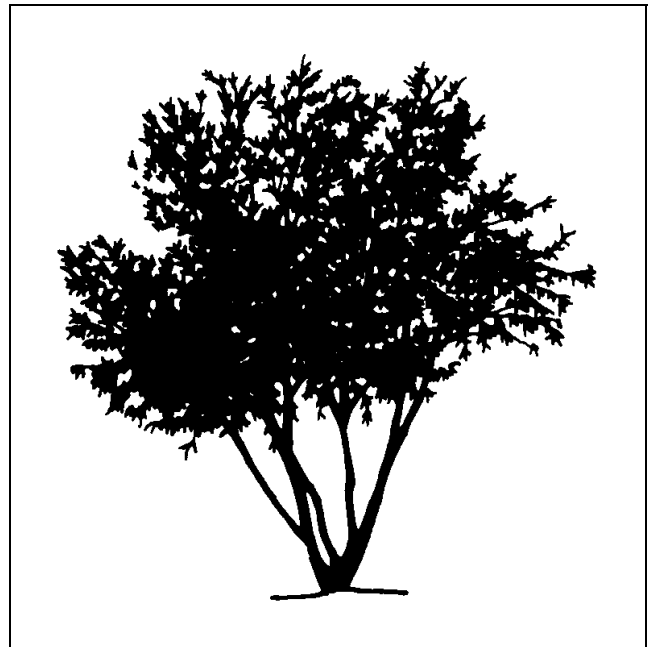


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Angustifolia' Dahoon Holly.

Availability: grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

DESCRIPTION

Height: 20 to 30 feet

Spread: 10 to 18 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette

Crown shape: round; vase shape

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: medium

Texture: fine

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-300, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire; pectinate

Leaf shape: oblong; oblanceolate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: no fall color change

Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: white

Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: < .5 inch

Fruit covering: fleshy

Fruit color: red

Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: bark is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact; droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; not particularly showy; no thorns

Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: brown; green

Current year twig thickness: thin

Culture

Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; extended flooding; well-drained

Drought tolerance: moderate

Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

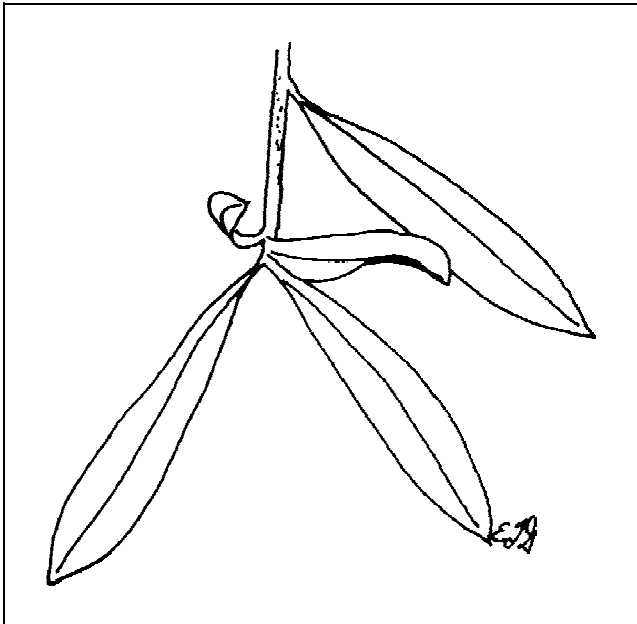


Figure 3. Foliage of 'Angustifolia' Dahoon Holly.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: no special winter interest

Outstanding tree: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: little, if any, potential at this time

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be susceptible

Pest resistance: no pests are normally seen on the tree

USE AND MANAGEMENT

It lends itself well to use as a specimen or small patio or shade tree, and is ideal for naturalizing in moist locations. It appears to adapt well to the confined spaces of urban and downtown landscapes but will require pruning of the drooping branches to create clearance below for pedestrians and traffic. Best to locate the plant where it will not require removal of these drooping branches to allow for the full development of the rounded, vase-shaped form. It would make a nice, fine-textured component in a shrub border or could be planted as a screen 10 feet apart.

Growing well in full sun to partial shade, 'Angustifolia' Dahoon Holly does best on moist soils, and is found on wet, boggy soils of swamps in its native environment. It can tolerate drier locations with some watering but may have a thin crown.