



Ilex vomitoria 'Pendula' Weeping Yaupon Holly¹

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INTRODUCTION

Weeping Yaupon Holly makes a very distinct, irregular, weeping form with its upright crooked trunks and slender, curved, pendulous branches clothed with small, oval, grey-green foliage (Fig. 1). Many nursery operators produce this tree with several trunks in a clump. Capable of reaching 30 feet or more in height, Weeping Yaupon Holly is most often seen 15 to 20 feet tall with a spread of only 6 to 12 feet. Old plants will spread to 25 feet. The inconspicuous male and female flowers appear on separate plants and are followed in fall and winter by a spectacular display of the translucent red berries which attract wildlife. The flowers attract bees for several weeks. Purchase plants with berries on them (females) if you want a berry-producing tree.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: *Ilex vomitoria* 'Pendula'

Pronunciation: EYE-lecks vom-ih-TOR-ee-uh

Common name(s): Weeping Yaupon Holly

Family: *Aquifoliaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 9 (Fig. 2)

Origin: native to North America

Uses: Bonsai; container or above-ground planter; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); 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; screen; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; residential street

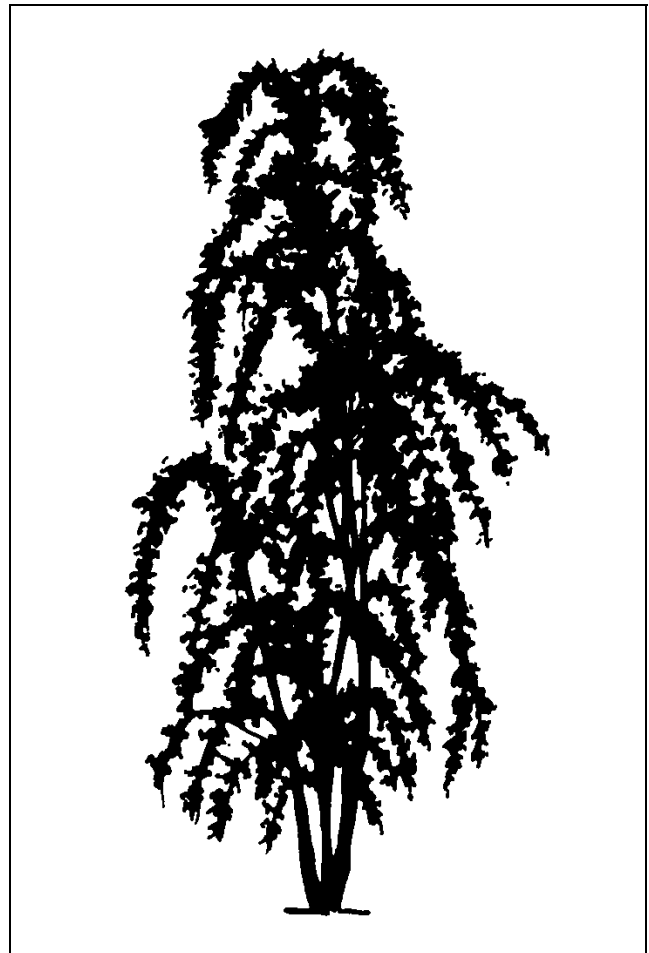


Figure 1. Middle-aged Weeping Yaupon Holly.

tree; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

DESCRIPTION

Height: 15 to 30 feet

Spread: 6 to 12 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette

Crown shape: upright; weeping

Crown density: open

Growth rate: medium

Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: crenate; serrulate

Leaf shape: ovate

Leaf venation: banchidodrome; pinnate; reticulate

Leaf type and persistence: evergreen

Leaf blade length: less than 2 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: attracts birds; attracts squirrels and other mammals; no significant litter problem; persistent on the tree; showy

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: needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

Breakage: resistant

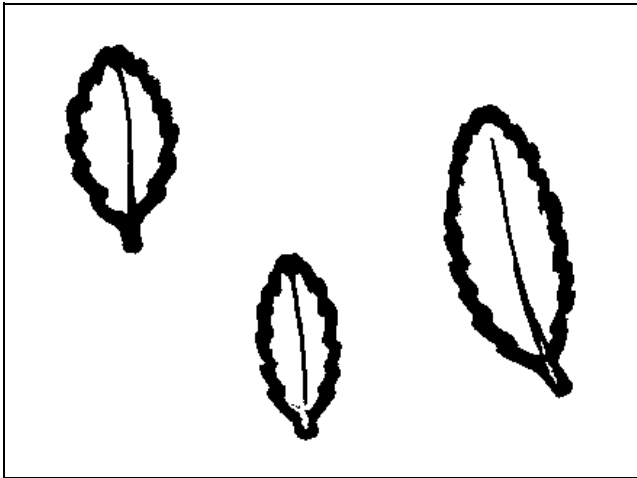


Figure 3. Foliage of Weeping Yaupon Holly.

Current year twig color: gray

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; acidic; alkaline;
extended flooding; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: high

Other

Roots: surface roots are usually not a problem

Winter interest: tree has winter interest due to
unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter
trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding tree: tree has outstanding ornamental
features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: seeds itself into the landscape

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: not known to be
susceptible

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not
affected by pests

USE AND MANAGEMENT

The tree is best used as an accent or specimen due to its unusual form, but planted about 8 to 10 feet apart makes a nice screen in the full sun. As the tree grows older next to a sidewalk or patio, lower branches can be removed to allow for pedestrians to pass beneath.

A sturdy North American native, Weeping Yaupon Holly is adaptable to a wide range of cultural conditions, from well-drained to wet, acid to alkaline,

and sun to part-shade. It is very tolerant of drought and sea salt, and is one of the most durable and adaptable of the small-leaved evergreen Hollies for use in southern landscapes. Light pruning may be necessary to maintain shape, but unlike the species it requires less maintenance because it does not sprout from the roots.

Propagation is by cuttings.

Pests

Scale, leaf miners, mites, aphids appear to form a long list of problems, but none are normally serious.

Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.