

**Colchica Holly***Ilex colchica*

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 6a

Description:

Considered a small tree or large shrub with a slow growing, conical habit; rich, leathery dark green foliage; spiny leaf margins and somewhat coarse textured leaves; beautiful scarlet berries in the fall and into the winter

Ornamental Features

Colchica Holly is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. It features an abundance of magnificent red berries in late fall. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The large glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Colchica Holly is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen tree with a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Colchica Holly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Colchica Holly will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.



Colchica Holly
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.