

# Holly - *Ilex aquifolium*



## Description

Immediately recognisable, holly is an evergreen shrub with glossy, spiky leaves, smooth grey bark, and red berry fruit in the winter. The species is 'dioecious' - individual trees have only male *or* female flowers. Both male and female flowers are small and white, though males have stamen. In some instances, the upper leaves do not exhibit the typical spiky form and are more oval.

Holly thrives in acid to neutral, dry to moist soils with moderate nutrient levels. The species usually is found in woodlands in W10-11 and 14 communities and is extremely shade tolerant.

## Soil regimes

<b>Soil reaction (R)</b>	5
<b>Nitrogen availability (N)</b>	5

## Acknowledgements:

Rob Coltman (L+R), Forestry Commission (M)