

## AQUIFOLIACEAE – HOLLY FAMILY

**Plant:** shrubs and small trees

**Stem:**

**Root:**

**Leaves:** simple, alternate or rarely opposite or whorled, usually leathery and often evergreen, often toothed or spiny; tiny stipules or none

**Flowers:** perfect or more often imperfect (dioecious); small, white to green from axils of twigs; sepals 4-8 and tiny; 4-8 rounded petals, often whitish; 4-8 stamens; ovary superior, 1 pistil, 3 to many fused carpels, 1 style (reduced)

**Fruit:** fleshy berry or drupe, 3-5 nutlets, often red, very small, oily

**Other:** worldwide; Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 4 genera; locally *Ilex* (holly), *Nemopanthus* (mountain holly)

## AQUIFOLIACEAE – HOLLY FAMILY

Possum Haw [Deciduous Holly]; *Ilex decidua* Walter  
American Holly; *Ilex opaca* Aiton var. *opaca*  
Common Winterberry (Black Alder); *Ilex verticillata* (L.) Gray  
Yaupon; *Ilex vomitoria* Aiton

# Possum Haw [Deciduous Holly]

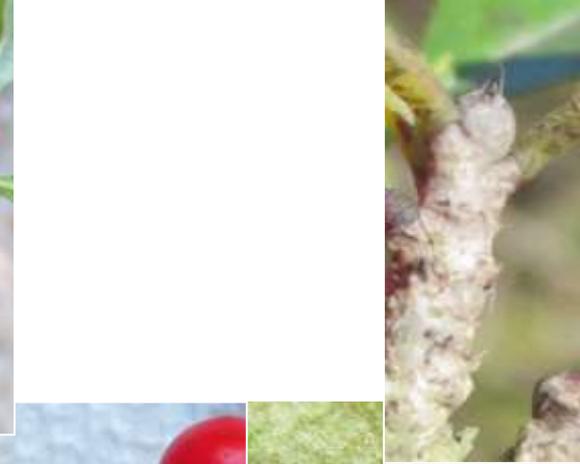
*Ilex decidua* Walter

Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family)

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Stoddard County,  
Missouri

Notes: dioecious shrub to small tree; flowers in small clusters or single, white, small, 4-6 petals; leaves often on lateral spurs or alternate, simple, often obovate with tapering base, glabrous above, often hairy below, low rounded teeth, deciduous; bark light, smooth, sometimes warty; fruit a red berry with 4 seeds; glades, uplands, and along streams and in swamps; spring

[V Max Brown, 20017]



# American Holly

*Ilex opaca* Aiton var. *opaca*  
Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: shrub or small tree; flowers solitary or in clusters, small, white to greenish white; leaves ovate, shiny upper surface, thick and leathery, evergreen, toothed with spines; bark light gray; fruit a red drupe; probably a southern transplant to northern Ohio

[V Max Brown, 2006]





# Yaupon [Holly]

*Ilex vomitoria* Aiton

Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family)

Seagrave Beach, Walton County, Florida

Notes: shrub or small tree, dioecious; staminate flowers white, small in clusters from leaf axils, pistillate flowers in 1, 2 or 3's; leaves small, ovate, dark green above, paler below, thick and leathery, evergreen, crenate along most of the margin of the leaf; bark light gray; fruit a red drupe; swamps, dune areas, and swamps, often very thick and twiggy; spring

[V Max Brown, 2012]

