

# Common Winterberry



## *Ilex verticillata*

This native shrub has striking fall and winter interest. The bright red berries of the female plants will persist through the winter. This plant will grow in just about any soil and sun conditions. The fruit is favored by over 48 species of birds as well as many mammals. Winterberry is a good nectar source and is a larval host for the Elf and Henrys Elfin Butterflies. There is a long history of medicinal use and a tea can be made from the leaves.

**NATIVE TO EASTERN  
UNITED STATES**

- Hardiness: Zone 3-9
- Size: 6-10' by 6-10'
- Habit: Oval-rounded deciduous shrub, tends to send up shoots to create a multi-stemmed clump. Slow growth rate
- Fruit: Bright red berries on Female plants, late summer through winter. Need one Male for every three females
- Culture: Prefers full sun and moist, high organic matter soils. Native to swampy areas, but tolerates partial shade and a range of soil conditions
- Uses: Massing, shrub border, wet areas, rain garden, floral arrangements, tough plant, high wildlife value, birds, butterflies, medicinal, tea