

Gem Box Inkberry



Ilex glabra 'Strongbox'

- **Use:** Native alternative to boxwood. Love boxwood but struggle with disease or winter damage? Plant Strongbox® inkberry holly instead. This native evergreen naturally grows as a broadly rounded mound, and keeps its leaves all the way to the ground for the lush, dense look you love. It can be pruned or shaped as you desire, or left to attain its neat natural shape. It's also much faster growing than boxwood, and offers good deer resistance, too.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun-part shade. Well-drained soil, not soggy. Water the 1st two years for best growth. If it doesn't rain for 7-10 days, then water until established. For fastest growth use slow release fertilizer two times a year!
- **Growth:** An easy to grow shrub reaching 2 to 3' tall and wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 5-9; shrub
- **Foliage:** Evergreen. Dark evergreen foliage.
- **Flower:** Greenish white flowers appear in spring, but are relatively inconspicuous. If pollinated, female flowers give way to pea-sized, jet black, berry-like drupes (inkberries as it were) which mature in early fall and persist throughout winter to early spring unless consumed by local bird populations. The berries of inkberry holly were used by soldiers during the Civil War to make ink for their personal correspondence.

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Top reasons to grow Strongbox® inkberry holly:

- Native to North America.
- Naturally mounded shape and evergreen.
- Resistant to disease, pests, and winter burn.

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