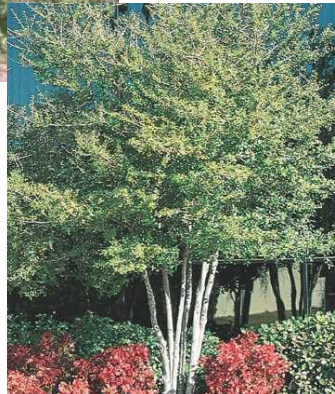


Schillings Yaupon Holly



Ilex vomitoria

- **Use:** Often grown in residential landscapes and trimmed into hedges or as a single topiary tree. The ornamental twigs with shiny evergreen leaves and numerous red berries have been used as holiday decorations and make cheerful accents in the winter landscape.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Full sun to deep shade, though it will produce more fruit and have a thicker canopy with more sun. It is tolerant of a wide range of soil types and can withstand drought, salt spray, and occasional flooding. This plant can take heavy pruning, transplants easily, and is resistant to Phytophthora root rot.
- **Growth:** This holly can rapidly reach 10 to 20 feet tall and 8 to 12 feet wide, so allow proper spacing. It will form thickets unless the suckers are removed. tolerates drought and poor drainage
- **Hardiness:** Zone 7a-9b, Shrub
- **Foliage:** Evergreen. The leaves are small, leathery and bright green and are not prickly like other hollies. Very young stems are purplish in color and turn silvery-gray as they age. The leaves are dark green and small, usually less than 1 1/2 in. long. The pale gray bark is marked with white patches.
- **Flower:** It is dioecious, meaning it has separate male and female plants. So, to achieve the attractive bright red signature fruits both male and female shrubs that bloom in the same time period must be planted. However, as we have native ones in the area they may get pollinated from a neighbor's plants too. The flowers attract bees and butterflies.



The leaves and twigs contain caffeine, and American Indians used them to prepare a tea, which they drank in large quantities ceremonially and then vomited back up, lending the plant its species name, vomitoria. The vomiting was self-induced or because of other ingredients added; it doesn't actually cause vomiting. Tribes from the interior traveled to the coast in large numbers each spring to partake of this tonic, and it was also a common hospitality drink among many groups. It remained popular as such among southeastern Americans into the 20th century and is still occasionally consumed today, with a flavor resembling another holly drink, the South American yerba mate, from *Ilex paraguariensis*.

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