



Holm Oak
Quercus ilex

Height: 50 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Holly Oak

Description:

A medium size tree with leathery evergreen leaves that persist 1 to 2 years after new leaves emerge; foliage resembles that of holly; can be clipped to form a tall hedge and is suitable for windbreaks making it valuable in urban and garden settings

Ornamental Features

Holm Oak has attractive dark green foliage with gray undersides. The serrated narrow leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. Neither the flowers nor the fruit are ornamentally significant. However, the fruit can be messy in the landscape and may require occasional clean-up.

Landscape Attributes

Holm Oak is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen tree with a shapely oval form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting squirrels to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy

Holm Oak is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Holm Oak
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Holm Oak foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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- *Shade*
- *Vertical Accent*
- *Mass Planting*
- *Windbreaks and Shelterbelts*

Planting & Growing

Holm Oak will grow to be about 50 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live to a ripe old age of 150 years or more; think of this as a heritage tree for future generations!

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.



Holm Oak foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder