



photos: Dan Jaffe

COMMON WINTERBERRY

Ilex verticillata

Bright red berries last long into winter, providing a food source for overwintering birds. This large shrub is hardy and adaptable to many conditions, making it a garden staple.

Benefits for Wildlife

- Flowers provide nectar for pollinators
- Long-lasting berries eaten by songbirds, mice, and raccoons
- Rabbits and deer browse leaves and branches in winter

Host to 33 caterpillar species, including: (common names) Pawpaw Sphinx; Laurel Sphinx; Spiny Oak-Slug Moth; Polyphemus Moth; Io Moth; White-Marked Tussock Moth; Chickweed Geometer; Alternate Woodling

Benefits for People

- Adaptable, hardy landscape shrub and important understory species
- Bright red berries provide attractive winter highlight

Growing Information

<i>Sunlight</i>	Sun to shade
<i>Soil Type</i>	Moist (preferred) to dry, acidic
<i>Height</i>	6–10'
<i>Width</i>	6-10'
<i>Flowering calendar</i>	Summer

Natural Habitat

- Moist woodlands and open wetlands

