


Possum Haw *Ilex decidua*



Other Common Names: Possum Haw, Possumhaw Holly, Deciduous Holly, Bearberry, Meadow Holly, Prairie Holly



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Possum Haw Holly
Ilex decidua

✦ **Native Deciduous Perennial Tree**  **Pollinators, Birds**

 **Sun/Part Shade**  **Water: Low-Medium**

Size: 8-30' Tall x 6-10' Wide **Color:** Dark green oval toothed leaves
Red berries with yellow leaves in fall

Grown by a Denton County Master Gardener

General Information

This small deciduous tree or large shrub, a Texas native, is fairly nondescript in the summer, however once leaves drop in the fall, the female plants retain outstanding red or orange berries, providing a blaze of color in the landscape. This holly is designated as a Texas Superstar.

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: 5-9

Heat Tolerance: High

Size: 8-30 feet tall by 6-10 feet wide

Flowers: Inconspicuous yellow-green

Bloom time: May

Leaves: Dark green glossy oval toothed leaves, turn yellow before dropping

Pests and Disease Problems

Generally disease resistant.

Plant Care

Possum haw can adapt to a wide range of soil conditions. It can be grown in the shade, but it will fruit (produce berries) best in partial shade to full sun. Females need a male pollinator for a good fruit set. Small mammals, songbirds, and gamebirds will eat the fruit in winter.

Warning

May produce unwanted suckers from the roots that require maintenance.

Sources for Additional Information

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. [Ilex decidua](#)

Missouri Botanical Garden. [Ilex decidua](#)

TAMU, Earth-Kind Landscaping. [Possumhaw](#)

Texas SmartScape. [Possumhaw Holly](#)

Texas SuperStar. [Deciduous Holly](#)