

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Male flowers and leaves. Photographer JC Schou, Denmark



Fruit and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Canberra, ACT



Tree. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Belmore Falls near Robertson

Common name

English holly, Common holly, Holly

Family

Aquifoliaceae

Where found

Forest, **forest** margins, disturbed sites, waste areas, gardens, and along streams. Sydney, Blue Mountains, and the Southern Highlands. Doubtfully **naturalised** in the ACT.

Notes

Introduced shrub or tree to 15 m high. Young stems hairy, becoming hairless. Fruit fleshy. Leaves usually with spiny teeth. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 3–11 cm long, 25–50 mm wide, leathery, upper surface dark green and glossy, lower surface paler and duller, margins wavy, usually with spiny teeth, tips pointed. Leaves on the upper branches of older trees often not spiny, and the margins may be **entire**. Male and female flowers on different plants. Flowers fragrant, white or pinkish, about 8 mm in diameter, with 4 **petals** each 2–5 mm long, in 3-flowered clusters (occasionally 1-6), densely arranged into larger clusters. Flowers mostly late spring–summer. Ripe fruit bright red, globose or oval, 6-10 mm in diameter. Fruit poisonous to humans.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lv=sp&name=Ilex~aquifolium> (accessed 19 January, 2021)

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