



Bush approximately 7 foot tall

Planting/Pruning Tips:

Seeds germinate best if planted right after gathering. Soil needs to be warm and moist.

Possumhaw holly are bushy plants. If planting multiple bushes, leave room between plants for them to grow.

When pruning wear protective clothing to prevent cuts from the tough branches.

Visitor Education Center (VEC)

About Us

The Visitor Education Center (VEC) at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is the first and only facility of its kind in Mississippi. It is owned and operated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

In addition to the native habitat area, the VEC features a 10,000 gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, fishing rodeo pond, gift shop and gallery, and the World Record White Crappie. All of these elements serve as entertaining and engaging learning experiences for all visitors.

The VEC promotes the sport of freshwater fishing in Mississippi, and encourages the conservation and stewardship of aquatic resources. The facility offers guided and self-guided tours along with a myriad of programs and workshops for the public.



Berry clusters

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE: POSSUMHAW HOLLY

(Ilex decidua)

**NMFH Visitor
Education Center**

Phone: (662) 563-8068

Web: www.mdwfp.com

Address: P.O. Box 100, 457
CR 36, Enid, MS 38927



Green berries

Description/Season:

Possumhaw is a small tree that can be trimmed into a shrub. This perennial has dark green leaves that turn yellow in the fall.

Blooming occurs March – May followed by berry production.

These tiny flowers form clusters of berries on the limbs of the female tree. Berries are green then change to orange and deep red. These berries last through winter into early spring.

Habitat/Size:

Native to Mississippi, this holly can be found in river bottoms and moist, wooded areas.

The possumhaw can grow to an average height of 15 feet. Its leaves grow to a length of approximately 3 inches.

Other Names:

Deciduous Holly, Swamp Holly, Bearberry, and Winterberry



Berries turning red



Red berries

Interesting Facts:

This native plant makes a nice accent tree/shrub. The berries attract numerous species of birds, including cedar waxwings. The berries also attract insects and small mammals. It provides good nesting areas for birds and is moderately resistant to deer.

The limbs are covered in berries; these limbs are used in ornamental and holiday arrangements.



Information Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, MSU Extension, Clemson.edu, USDA, and VEC Staff. Pictures taken at the VEC (Wiggins, E.J.); property of MDWFP.

