

Berry Poppins© Winterberry

By Anjel Chavez



Berry Poppins® winterberry, *Ilex verticillata* 'FarrowBPop', is a dwarf-sized winterberry compared to other winterberry hollies. It is well known for its long-lasting bright red berries that can be admired by all in the winter months. Unfortunately, the berries are not edible for human consumption but do attract birds which is a potential food source for them. Berry Poppins® is a dioecious shrub, so for the best berry production place a male winterberry, such as Mr. Poppins™ nearby. Mr. Poppins™ can pollinate up to 5 Berry Poppins® or other winterberries that are within 50 feet of the shrub. Be careful, the berries can be toxic to pets so pay attention to your four-legged friends when they are outside.



Berry Poppins© winterberry produce vibrant red berries that are unsafe for humans and animals.
Photo Credit: Proven Winters.

Berry Poppins® is a multi-stemmed shrub with smooth light gray bark. When fully mature, it can get 3' to 4' wide and 3' to 4' in height and should be spaced every 36" to 60". The winterberry can tolerate USDA Hardiness Zones 3 to 9, allowing it compatible with almost all climates found in the United States. The plant can grow in well-drained moist acidic soils, as well as poorly drained soils and boggy conditions. It does poorly in neutral or alkaline soils and often dies in these soil conditions. The plant loves full sun but can grow in areas that are partly shaded as well. Big bonus, Berry Poppins® is a deer-resistant shrub!

The plant produces small greenish-white flowers that bloom late spring or early summer. These flowers are not showy and do not have an intriguing scent and are mainly just a pollination source for bees and other insects. The flowers are then followed by showy bright red berries in the winter. The leaves are elliptical in shape with finely serrated margins and are dark green in the summer.



Dark green leaves with green developing berries are the common look mid-year.
Photo Credit: Proven Winters.

Berry Poppins® winterberry is perfect for home landscapes that need an extra pop of color during the winter months. The plant is also tolerant of road salt, so Berry Poppins® is a great option if looking for a shrub that brings a pop of color to the front of your house. It can also be planted along the edges of streams or ponds. The shrub requires very little to no pruning. Excessive pruning can decrease flower and fruit production. Branches with berries can be cut off to add to flower arrangements. Older, less vigorous branches that are not producing fruit anymore can be pruned off in the spring. Regular watering will help with keeping the soil moist around the plant. There are no known issues or diseases that affect this plant. All around, it is a very low-maintenance, disease-free, ornamental shrub.



The red berry covered branches are great for indoor décor in winter. *Photo Credit: Great Garden Plants.*

For More Information:

References:

Ilex verticillata 'FarrowBPop'. Proven Winners. Found online: <https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/ilex/berry-poppins-winterberry-ilex-verticillata>

Ilex verticillata Berry Poppins® Winterberry'. Gardenia. Found online: <https://www.gardenia.net/plant/ilex-verticillata-berry-poppins>

Photos:

<https://www.greatgardenplants.com/product/Ilex-Berry-Poppins-Holly-Winterberry/proven-winners-plants>

<https://www.provenwinners.com/learn/finding-right-plant/ultimate-guide-winterberry-holly>

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Date: March 2021



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