

Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

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By Eva Souded



Ilex verticillata 'Winter Red'



Common Name: winterberry

Type: Deciduous shrub

Family: Aquifoliaceae

Zone: 3 to 9

Height: 6.00 to 8.00 feet

Spread: 6.00 to 8.00 feet

Bloom Time: June to July

Bloom Description: White

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Hedge, Rain Garden

Flower: Insignificant

Attracts: Birds

Fruit: Showy

Other: Winter Interest

Tolerate: Erosion, Clay Soil, Wet Soil, Air Pollution

Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun to part shade. Adaptable to both light and heavy soils, but prefers moist, acidic, organic loams. Good tolerance for wet conditions (the species is native to swampy areas in Eastern North America). Winterberries are dioecious (separate male and female plants). 'Winter Red' is a female clone which needs a male pollinator to produce the attractive red berries which are the signature of the winterberries. Generally one male winterberry (such as *I. verticillata* 'Southern Gentleman') will be sufficient for pollinating 9-10 'Winter Red' plants. Prune to shape in early spring just before new growth appears.

'Winter Red' is a female winterberry cultivar that typically matures to 6-8' tall. Among winterberry cultivars, it is noted for heavy fruiting, bright red fruit color and good retention of the bright fruit color throughout winter. It is a slow-growing, deciduous, suckering shrub with an upright rounded habit. Lustrous dark green leaves (to 3-5" long). Relatively inconspicuous whitish flowers appear in the leaf axils in late spring. Flowers, if properly pollinated, give way to a profuse crop of bright red berries (3/8" diameter) in fall. Berries are quite showy and will persist throughout the winter (hence the common name) often to early spring. Berries provide considerable impact and interest to the winter landscape

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DRYING HYDRANGEAS NATURALLY

You can have beautifully dried hydrangeas that are as lovely as any you can purchase. When first starting to dry hydrangeas. The secret to perfectly dried hydrangeas is very simple. Wait until they are ready before picking them. The timing is much more important than the method one uses to dry them. While it is tempting to cut the hydrangea blossoms for drying at the height of their color, this doesn't work. Fresh, recently opened blooms, rarely dry well in the open air. Hydrangeas do best when allowed to dry on the plant before picking them. Experiment with harvesting from August through October. In the south, hydrangeas usually age to a blushing green color and then pick up shades of pink and burgundy as Fall approaches. In the cooler areas of the world, they seem to age to shades of blue and purple. They are both equally beautiful to me, but very different.

TIPS

__Leave blooms on the shrub until late summer. Toward the end of the summer the petals will begin to age and take on a vintage look. If left on the shrub a while longer, many blooms will pick up interesting shades of burgundy and pink. The timing for cooler areas may be much different from this.

__One can cut the blooms, strip off the leaves, arrange them in a vase, with or without water, and leave them to dry. It is not necessary to hang hydrangeas up side down to dry unless the stems are very thin and weak. __To retain extremely natural hydrangea color, use Silica Gel to dry fresh blooms.



COLORING AND DECORATING WITH HYDRANGEAS

Dyeing Hydrangeas with Rit Dye



One method of coloring hydrangeas is with Rit Dye, which can produce either deep or light shades.

The basket to the left is filled with hydrangeas dyed in different shades of rose pink

Tips for a Dyeing Hydrangeas

1. Make sure that the blooms you are using have been off the shrub for two weeks or more and are completely dry before beginning (see Drying Hydrangeas Naturally.)
2. Dye the heads just like you would dye cloth - dip them in a boiling dye bath.
3. The deepest colors can be achieved by making sure the Rit dye mixture is boiling before dipping the dry hydrangea heads into it. For lighter effects leave head in dye less time or dip when dye bath is slightly cooler than boiling. It can also be effective to mix the different shades, as in the basket arrangement above.
4. Sometimes, when dyeing older blooms, they are not as pretty and light colored as one would like. Try spot-spraying the blooms with white spray-paint before dyeing (any spray-paint will do). Concentrate spray on the centers of each floret. Also, spray all darkened areas of the bloom with white. This method is especially helpful in prolonging the usefulness of blooms that are more than a year old.
5. Just as a reference, the dyed flowers in the basket above are three to four years old. They were dyed the year before this picture was taken. The dried roses in the arrangement were purchased.



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5

DYEING STEPS

Dye will drip on the floor and other surfaces. Be sure to cover all involved surfaces with newspaper.

1. A dry, white bloom is held over a pot of boiling dye bath.
2. The bloom is lowered into the dye bath and held for a few seconds.
3. and 4. The same bloom as the white one pictured in Step 1, is being removed from the dye bath a few seconds later. At this point it looks like a totally ruined bloom. But do not fear, it fluffs back up to it's normal shape.
5. The blooms are hung to dry (obviously, these are not the same hydrangeas as those in Steps 1-4).

The blooms can be can hung from a line that is strung up in an out-of-the-way area.

They dry fairly quickly.

A TIP FOR MAKING WREATHS FROM DRIED FLOWERS

If you want to make wreaths out of your dried hydrangeas, before attaching them to a straw or foam wreath form with wire pins, immerse the flower heads in warm water for about 15 minutes. The flowers become pliable so that they can then be torn apart to the right size and attached to the wreath with little or no breakage. The completed wreath must be dried again -- it takes about a day -- and afterward you have a lovely 'dried' wreath!

This procedure eliminates, almost totally, breakage and loss of beautiful hydrangea blooms.

Incidentally, you can use this method for other dried flowers as well. The results are striking!"

DECORATING WITH HYDRANGEAS AT CHRISTMAS

Stunning Christmas tree ornaments, wreaths, and arrangements can be made with Hydrangeas.

Leave bloom heads natural or spray them gold or silver or (believe it or not) red.

We have found that "gaudy" red blooms can make some of the most stunning displays.

In arrangements, combine with fresh ivy, nandina berries and holly.

On the tree, one can use a gold bow with each hydrangea head.



PERFECT WREATH FOR REPLACEMENT OF YOUR HOLIDAY WREATH - DON'T LEAVE THAT DOOR BARE!!

This wreath is topped with a silver embossed bow with pale (dyed) red hydrangeas, silver bead, silver matte sprays, bunches of red twigs, silver acorns, silver birds, red berries and silver holly and berry accents and a silver bird.



Or a simple all red hydrangea wreath.



From the garden of Eva

With Cinco de Mayo quickly approaching I thought it would be a good time to share a new recipe we tried recently that will definitely be added to our rotation of family favorites!!

I had never made Enchiladas but it certainly sounded like something we'd like, and this one got two thumbs up from everyone!

It doesn't take a pretty picture, but it sure is delicious!!

Ingredients

Chicken 2 pounds chicken, cooked and shredded

Sauce

3 T. honey

1/4 c lime juice

1 Tb chipotle chili powder

1/2 tsp garlic powder

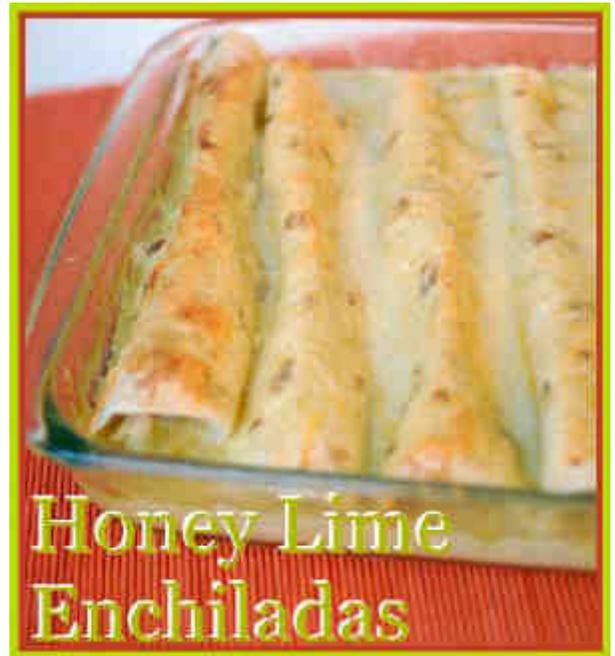
2 (10 oz) cans green enchilada sauce (mild)

3-4 cups Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

cheddar cheese, shredded

1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

6 flour tortillas



**This recipe does require some prep time – about 45 mins if you're using cooked chicken or about 1 hour 15 mins. if you need to cook your chicken.*

Instructions

1. I put a few thawed chicken breasts in a 350° oven for about 35-40min, then shred (you could do this a head of time, even the day before) – or you could use a cooked rotisserie chicken from the grocer.
2. Mix together sauce ingredients then add to chicken. Let it marinate with the meat for about 30 minutes.
3. Lightly spray a 9×13 pan with no-stick spray.
4. Pour enough enchilada sauce to cover the bottom of the pan (about 1/2 to 3/4 cup).
5. Fill flour tortillas with chicken and *shredded cheese and just a little enchilada sauce (*be sure to save about 1 cup of cheese to sprinkle on top of enchiladas).
6. Roll and place filled enchiladas in pan on top of sauce.
7. Mix the remaining enchilada sauce with the cream and leftover marinade, if you have any.
8. Pour sauce on top of the enchiladas and sprinkle with remaining cheese.
9. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 minutes until brown on top.
10. Then turn on broiler and place enchiladas nearer the top of oven. Let it broil until cheese is slightly brown and crispy.

Nuthatch



The agile nuthatch is spreading northwards and its use of gardens peaks at this time of year.

The nuthatch is a bird full of character, a brash and often noisy interloper at garden feeding stations, whose unseemly behaviour has its origins in the need to find food.

More gardens are visited by nuthatches during November than in any other month as they are busy foraging during the short daylight hours. They can also be seen collecting and storing food for the winter ahead.

Nuthatches are probably one of the easiest backyard birds to identify. If you see a bird creeping downward on a tree, it's a nuthatch. It's the only species that can "walk down a tree." It needs no tail support because it has incredibly strong feet!

That said, generally you won't see too many nuthatches in your yard. Most nuthatches visit feeders in ones and twos. They are feisty and aggressive birds, and pairs generally defend a territory of 10 to 30 acres. They feast on seeds and insects found in trees, and many times will hide seeds from feeders in tree bark for a snack later in the day or breakfast the next morning.

Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches are the most common visitors to feeders in North America. They enjoy suet, sunflower seeds and peanuts. Red-breasted Nuthatches are pickier than White-breasted Nuthatches, and their diet is made up mainly of conifer seeds. During years when these seeds aren't plentiful, Red-breasted Nuthatches will move south (or irrupt) in search of food.

Pygmy Nuthatches live in ponderosa forests in the West and survive the bitter winter nights by roosting with 50 to 100 or more other Pygmy Nuthatches in tree cavities. With so many birds in the cavity, they stay warm and can lower their metabolic rate to conserve energy.

Another species, Brown-headed Nuthatches, live primarily in the Southeast United States in mature pine forests. These birds live in flocks, although they do not have the "sleepovers" the Pygmy Nuthatches have.

To attract nuthatches to your yard, try a suet or peanut feeder as well as a blend high in sunflower.



Nuthatches: Short-tailed and long-billed; often climb head-down, feeding on insects gleaned from bark crevices. Nest in cavities; flight is undulating.

Red-breasted nuthatch

White-breasted nuthatch

Illustrations
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We now carry Terrariums!

Fairy gardens and terrariums are some of the latest trends in indoor gardening - and Andi Of Village Garden Center can teach you how to create them.

Interested? Email Andi at andivgc@gmail.com

Learn how to create a fairy garden or terrarium or a fairy garden terrarium!



What Is a Terrarium?

A terrarium is a small collection of miniature plants that are grown inside a clear container. The terrarium is sealed to create a self-contained ecosystem, in which the life processes of photosynthesis, respiration and the water cycle take place. Just as it does in a life-size ecosystem, water passes through its every form in a terrarium as well—from liquid to gas—as it is absorbed by the plants, released into the air, and returned to liquid condensation on the terrarium walls

Terrariums come in all different shapes and sizes, and they can be controlled to simulate every type of ecosystem from a desert to a rainforest.

Most of them are made with a glass jar, but you can also fashion one out of a clear plastic container. Whichever type of container is used, it should have a large mouth so that the plants can be easily placed inside. It's usually best to fill the terrarium with small plants such as moss, lichens, ferns, air plants, begonias, violets and more. You can choose different varieties to create your own little plant world.

There are many benefits to having a terrarium in your home. Here are just a few:

• Terrariums are low-maintenance:

Once you spritz your plants with water and close the container lid, your job is pretty much done. Since a terrarium is self-sustaining, you don't have to worry about watering it every day. Unlike other plants that die when you neglect them, terrarium plants thrive when they're left alone because the plants already exist in a balanced environment.

• Terrariums are small:

If you live in an apartment or a small home with no backyard, terrariums give you the chance to overcome your spatial confinements and grow some green anyway. Just because your space is small doesn't mean you have to give up on gardening. Terrariums let you enjoy your passion for plants, no matter where you are!

• Terrariums are perfect for every season:

Old Man Winter doesn't have to take away your green thumb, either. Your indoor container protects your plants from the harsh outdoor conditions, and its humidity control also protects the plants from dry indoor air. It's like bringing Mother Nature indoors, minus the icky weather!



It's a bug eat bug world...



The Isabella Tiger Moth (*Pyrrharctia isabella*) can be found in many cold regions, including the Arctic.

The banded Woolly Bear larva emerges from the egg in the fall and overwinters in its caterpillar form, when it literally freezes solid. First its heart stops beating, then its gut freezes, then its blood, followed

by the rest of the body. It survives being frozen by producing a cryoprotectant in its tissues. In the spring it thaws out and emerges to pupate.

Once it emerges from its pupa as a moth it has only days to find a mate.

The larva is black at both ends, with or without a band of coppery red in the middle. The adult moth is dull yellow to orange with a robust, furry thorax and small head. Its wings have sparse black spotting and the proximal segments on its first pair of legs are bright reddish-orange.

The setae of the Woolly Bear caterpillar do not inject venom and are not urticant—they do not typically cause irritation, injury, inflammation, or swelling. Handling them is discouraged, however, as the bristles may cause dermatitis in people with sensitive skin. Their main defense mechanism is playing dead if picked up or disturbed.

Adult, the Isabella Tiger Moth



Diet

This species is a generalist feeder—it feeds on many different species of plants, especially herbs and forbs.

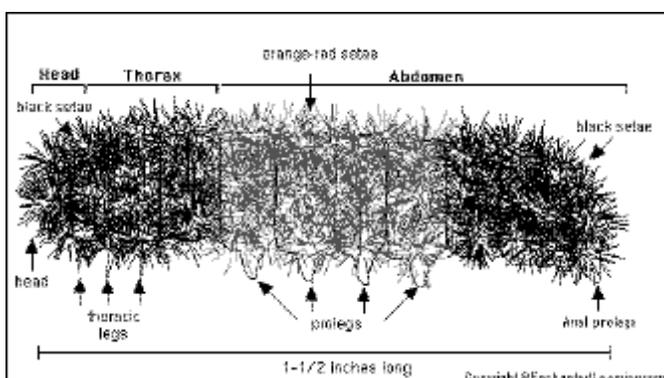
Self-medication

Recent research has shown that the larvae of a related moth *Grammia incorrupta* (whose larvae are also called “woollybears”) consume alkaloid-laden leaves that help fight off internal parasitic fly larvae. This phenomenon is said to be “the first clear demonstration of self-medication among insects”.

Folklore

Folklore of the eastern United States and Canada holds that the relative amounts of brown and black on the skin of a Woolly Bear caterpillar (commonly abundant in the fall) are an indication of the severity of the coming winter. It is believed that if a Woolly Bear caterpillar's brown stripe is thick, the winter weather will be mild and if the brown stripe is narrow, the winter will be severe. In reality, hatchlings from the same clutch of eggs can display considerable variation in their color distribution, and the brown band tends to grow with age; if there is any truth to the tale, it is highly speculative.

The name of the town of Sedro-Woolley, Washington State, is believed to derive from the Woolly Bear. The town is the result of the union of Sedro and Woolley Bug, and that Woolley Bug referred to a plethora of *P. isabella* larvae when the town was first built.



Black Hills Spruce

Picea glauca 'Densata'

Desirable, symmetrical cone shape to this evergreen conifer. Dense bright-green needles mature to an interesting blue-green. Great landscape accent, useful as windbreak or screening. Attracts birds.



New growth



Care Information

Follow a regular watering schedule during the first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Watering can be reduced after establishment. Feed with a general purpose fertilizer before new growth begins in spring.

Design Ideas

This is a useful mid-sized blue-colored spruce that works perfectly in the suburban landscape. Use as background foliage for colorful seasonal plantings. A great candidate for naturalistic woodlands needing a reliable conifer that won't spread out too much. Consider it as a single specimen for semiformal schemes or exploit its columnar form by planting matched pairs in symmetrical landscapes. Dense and rugged enough for small windbreaks at backyard scale.

Form

Growth Habit - Long stout branches from ground up form a broad pyramidal to conical crown, compact ascending branches, denser growth form than species.

Texture - Medium, summer and winter.

Crown Height - 30 to 60 feet.

Crown Width - 15 to 25 feet.

Bark Color - Ash brown, scaly or flaky bark.

Root System - Shallow, fibrous, and wide spreading.



Christmas at the Garden center

Gala Night Friday

Nov 1 from 6 to 9 pm

Open House

Sat Nov 2 & Sun Nov 3

