**Reading Assignments**

In *Landscape Plants For Texas And Environs, Third Ed.*

- Intro materials on shrubs (p. 682, 807)
- Family descriptions for:
  - Aquifoliaceae (p. 68), Caprifoliaceae (p. 74), Elaeagnaceae (p. 80), Elaeocarpaceae (p. 80), Ericaceae (p. 81), Lauraceae (p. 86), Myrtaceae (p. 91), Oleaceae (p. 92), Theaceae (p. 104)
- Descriptions for individual species
  - See page listings on Plant List 9 Handout (also available under lists on course website)

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**Small evergreen trees & large evergreen shrubs are indispensable**

- Critical design element as background / screens
  - Wind breaks
  - Large hedges
  - Topiaries

- Featured specimen plants
- Flower and fruit displays
- Wildlife shelter, seeds/fruit and browse
Small evergreen trees & large evergreen shrubs are indispensable

- Espaliers
- Security / barrier plantings
- Diverting pedestrian traffic

Why shearing large leaves can be a problem

Acca sellowiana
(Feijoa sellowiana)
Pineapple Guava

- Medium / large (8’ - 10’) broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, hardy in USDA zones 8 to 13
- Evergreen leaves shiny dark to bluish green above, white beneath
- Attractive fragrant purple and white flowers with red stamens in late spring

- Edible fruit / foliage
- Cut foliage & arrangements
**Acca sellowiana**  
*Feijoa sellowiana*  
**Pineapple Guava**

- Edible 2”- 3” oval berries, late fall / early winter
- Needs well drained soils and grows best in low relative humidity; heat, drought, and salt tolerant
- Background shrub, limb up as small tree, naturalizing; sometimes grown for home orchards; large containers

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**Arbutus xalapensis**  
**Texas Madrone**

- An outstanding small evergreen tree for West Texas
- Four season appeal
  - Clusters of white *Pieris*-like spring flowers
  - 2” - 3” clusters of red berries, late summer - early winter
  - Attractive broad-leaved evergreen foliage
  - Exfoliating white, tan, orange, apricot to red brown bark

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**Callistemon citrinus**  
**Crimson Bottlebrush**

- Medium shrub / small evergreen tree, hardy in USDA z. 9 (8b) - 13
- Medium fine textured, irregular upright form
- Recurrent flushes of fantastic crimson filamentous bottlebrush-shaped flowers
**Callistemon citrinus**

* Crimson Bottlebrush

- Tolerant of salt spray, soil salts, reflected heat, and drought; soil pH adaptable
- Avoid poorly drained sites
- Tough desirable shrub, but limited by cold tolerance
- Shrub, small tree, containers

**Camellia spp.**

* Camellias

- Popular broad-leaved medium to large evergreen shrubs, hardy USDA z. 8 (7) - 10
- Excellent early winter to early spring flowers
- Cultural requirements are similar to *Rhododendron spp.*, best in East Texas / LA
- *Camellia japonica* (Japanese Camellia) is larger and coarser in foliage and form than *Camellia sasanqua* (Sasanqua Camellia)
- Source of commercial tea (*Camellia sinense*)

**Camellia japonica**

* Large (8'-15') evergreen shrubs, hardy z.6b - 10
  - Very irregular rounded mounds with wild branches
  - Requires frequent pruning to remain presentable
* Autumn flowers visually ineffective but fragrant; interesting fruit

**Elaeagnus pungens**

* Thorny Elaeagnus

- Large (8'-15') evergreen shrubs, hardy z.6b - 10
  - Very irregular rounded mounds with wild branches
  - Requires frequent pruning to remain presentable
* Autumn flowers visually ineffective but fragrant; interesting fruit
**Elaeagnus pungens**  
**Thorny Elaeagnus**
- Very adaptable species, tolerates drought, heat, salt, sun, part shade, & heavy soils; may naturalize
- Effective screen; hedge sheared or not; bonsai; highway plantings / low input areas

**Elaeocarpus decipiens**  
**Japanese Blueberry Tree**
- 40' to 60' tall evergreen tree in Japan, smaller "dwarf" forms predominate in Texas trade
- Dark lustrous green leaves senescing red
- Small fragrant greenish white urn-shaped flower followed by blue-black olive-like drupes
- USDA z. 9 (8b) – 13
- Sun to part shade; well drained acidic to slightly alkaline soils

**Elaeocarpus decipiens**  
**Japanese Blueberry Tree**
- Effective background screen; general purpose large evergreen shrubs; ultimate size unsure
- Lots of promise but cold tolerance is uncertain; can be weedy in E. TX
- Sooty mold & scale insects are occasional problems

**Aquifoliaceae**  
**Holly Family**
- Dicotyledonous family native to cool temperate to tropical climates
- 2 to 4 genera containing 400 to 600 species
- Mostly evergreen shrubs or trees
- Flowers usually not showy, mostly dioecious sometimes polygamo-dioecious
- Small yellow, orange, red to black berry-like drupes, sometimes very showy
- Ilex is the only genus found in our landscapes, but it is a very important component
**Ilex aquifolium**
*English Holly*
- Source of most commercial holly in florist/cut foliage trade
- Beautiful dark glossy green or variegated foliage, with shiny red or yellow drupes
- Performs poorly in heat, drought, high pH soils; better on West Coast & in Europe

**Ilex cornuta**
*Chinese Holly*
- Large spreading shrubs or small trees, 8’ - 20’; dwarf forms 3’ to 8’ shrubs
- Dark glossy green leaves, shiny to dull red fruit on females, dense foliage
- Limited cold hardiness z. 8 (7) to 11, but takes more alkaline soils than most *Ilex* spp.
- One of most heat & drought tolerant hollies
- Species type seldom in trade, cultivars are common

Yellow variegation
Chlorosis on alkaline soils
**Ilex vomitoria** (left) vs. **Ilex cornuta** (right)

Why is this leggy looking?

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**Ilex × ‘Nellie R. Stevens’**
Nellie R. Stevens Holly

- Large evergreen shrubs/small trees, 15' - 25'(+) too big for foundation plantings
- Dense dark glossy foliage, bright red drupes (parthenocarpic)
- Hardy in USDA zones 6b - 9
- Can tolerate neutral pH soils, some drought
- Good heat tolerance
- Nice evergreen screen

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**Less Maintenance If Mature Size Fits The Intended Use**

All are *I. × ‘Nellie R. Stevens’* hedges, which one needs more frequent shearing?

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**Ilex opaca**
American Holly

- Small / medium trees, 25' - 35' (50'), hardy in USDA z. 5–8(9)
- Foliage dense, usually not as glossy as other species
- Dull to bright red drupes on females only
**Ilex opaca**
American Holly

- Chlorosis on high pH soils
- Leaf miners can be a persistent problem
- One of best for East, Central, & North Texas

**Ilex × attenuata ‘Fosteri’**
Foster’s Holly

- Excellent narrow conical evergreen large shrubs / small trees, 15' - 25', cold hardy in z. 7(6b) - 9
- Dark glossy green leaves, bright red drupes
- Best in rich acidic soils, but takes lesser sites
- Other cultivars of this species are of increasing importance in trade

**Ilex vomitoria**
Yaupon

- Small shrubs to small trees, typically 8'-15' shrubs, hardy z. 7 - 13
  - Fine-textured small evergreen leaves, upright oval becoming flat-topped with age, toxic fruit / leaves
  - Popular round dwarf, narrow columnar, and weeping forms are widely available in trade

**Ilex vomitoria**
Yaupon

- Dioecious, attractive shiny red fruit are effective fall-winter on females
- Valued as boxwood substitute for sheared hedges
- One of the most adaptable evergreens available for Texas, sun - shade, all but constantly wet soils, acidic to slightly alkaline soils
- Somewhat brittle branches are a shipping concern
What’s Wrong With This Picture?

Or this?

Osmanthus spp.
Tea Olives or False Hollies

- Evergreen large shrubs to small trees with foliage resembling that of Hollies (*Ilex spp.*)
- Dark evergreen leaves and fragrant fall to spring flowers are the primary assets
- Full sun to part shade; becomes chlorotic in high pH soils; neither salt nor drought tolerant; cold tolerance varies from USDA z. 6b to 8 and heat tolerance from z. 9 to 13
- Use as background screens, sheared hedges, or near outdoor seating and pedestrian areas for off-season fragrance

Laurus nobilis
Bay Laurel

- Aromatic evergreen upright oval to rounded large shrub or small tree, 10’ to 15’ (20’) tall
- European native, grown in USDA z. 9 (8b) - 13
- The classic laurel of antiquity bedecking heads of Roman and Greek generals / athletes
- Herb or cottage gardens, patio containers, large evergreen screen, large topiary, small tree, educational or historical gardens
- Watch for scale insects, sooty mold, root rots, & chlorosis on high pH soils
- Fair drought and salinity tolerance

Ligustrum spp.
Privets

- Evergreen to deciduous medium shrubs to small trees
- Cold hardy to varied heat zone, adaptable to soils
- Foliage varies, 1” to 5” long, thin succulent to thick waxy
- Most tolerate with moderate telephore disease issues
- Prolific fruit production
- Prized for hedges / topiary work
- Most taxa are moderate water users
- Delicious fruit used in prepared dishes
- Cold hardy to varied heat zone, adaptable
- Full sun to high shade; some will tolerate shade
- Drought, salt, and pollution tolerant; soil pH adaptable
- Many species can become weed problems
- Cotton root rot can be limiting to some taxa
**Ligustrum japonicum**  
Waxleaf Ligustrum

- Dense broad-leaved medium / large shrubs, 6' - 12' (20'), can be limbed up as small trees
- Attractive dark glossy evergreen leaves, coarser than *L. sinense*
- White flowers late spring / early summer

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**Ligustrum japonicum**  
Waxleaf Ligustrum

- Excellent multi-purpose shrubs, hardy to in USDA zones 7 - 13
- Good drought, heat, salt, wind, & pollution tolerance
- Tolerates shearing fairly well, perhaps less invasive than *L. lucidum*, but still naturalizes
- Few disease or pest problems

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**Ligustrum lucidum**  
Japanese Ligustrum

- Large broad-leaved shrub / small tree, 20' - 25' tall
- Glossy medium green leaves, 2" - 4", creamy white summer flowers
- Considerably large than *L. japonicum*, could be effective large screen, or limbed up as a small tree, USDA z. 8 (7) – 13; strong invasive tendencies

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**Ligustrum sinense**  
Chinese Privet

- Naturalized semi-evergreen medium / large shrub / small tree
- Moderately fine textured, widely used, inexpensive hedge in southern US, hardy in USDA zones 7 (6b) - 10, major weed
- Similar to *L. vulgare* grown in North
**Ligustrum sinense** Chinese Privet

- *Ligustrum sinense* ‘Variegatum’ has white to cream variegated leaf margins, is smaller, 4’ to 6’(8’), than the species type, and produces less fruit
- Unfortunate tendency to revert to the species type & overgrow

**Olea europaea** Olive

- Evergreen shrub to small tree, 15’ - 20’ tall, hardy USDA z. 9 (8b) - 13
- Gray-green foliage with picturesque growth form
- Dwarf forms used as sheared hedges
- Vitally important in early Western Civilization
- Edible fruit, oil source
- Fruit set requires mild winters with a high number of chilling hours; often irregular fruit set in our region

**Viburnum spp.** Viburnums

- Medium shrubs to small trees, deciduous, semi-evergreen or evergreen, variably cold (z. 2 - 9) or heat tolerant (z. 7 - 13) by species
- Pleasantly scented to foul smelling creamy white flowers in spring or early summer

**Shrub forms more common in Texas**

- Heat, drought, alkaline soil, and salt tolerant; intolerant of poor drainage
- Cotton root rot, *Verticillium* wilt, scales, & nematodes can be problems, but cold is most limiting condition
Viburnums

- Attractive red to blue-black fruit in summer to fall, sometimes into winter; wildlife food
- Wide temperature & site tolerances among species; one or more species for almost anywhere in USA; fall color?

Questions / Comments?

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Dr. Michael A. Arnold
Dept. of Horticultural Sciences
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-2133
email ma-arnold@tamu.edu