

● Recommended route

Turn back towards Lady Anne's Garden or, visit the Bicentenary Arboretum to see more *Ilex*. The next holly is in the border below the Mediterranean Garden.

11. *Ilex rugosa*. Slow growing low shrub with roughly veined, rugose (wrinkled) leaves. Siberia and Japan.

12. *Ilex crenata* 'Golden Gem' (f/v) AGM. Compact, dwarf shrub of spreading habit; small golden yellow leaves revert to green with age or in shade. Fruits sparingly.

Ilex 13 is to the right of the path to the toilets. Then make your way around the side of Rosemoor House through the car park; *Ilex* 14 is on the bank by the gate.

13. *Ilex aquifolium* 'Lichtenthalii' (f). This slow growing cultivar forms a compact mound of narrow twisted leaves, often with a few bright red berries nestled in amongst the foliage.

14. *Ilex aquifolium* 'Argentea Marginata Pendula' (f/v). Synonym 'Perry's Weeping'. Introduced 1859 by Perry's nursery of Banbury. White margins to spiny leaves which are purple-pink when young.

From no. 14, turn towards the house and nos. 15 and 16 are on the banks on your left at each of the next two entrances to the Upper Woodland Walk.

15. *Ilex* × *koehneana* 'Chestnut Leaf' (f) AGM. An old cultivar from Florence. A good upright tree with leaves reminiscent of the Spanish Chestnut.

16. *Ilex opaca* 'Villanova' (f). A yellow-fruited cultivar of what is typically a red-berried species from North America. Slow-growing, reaching up to 10m.

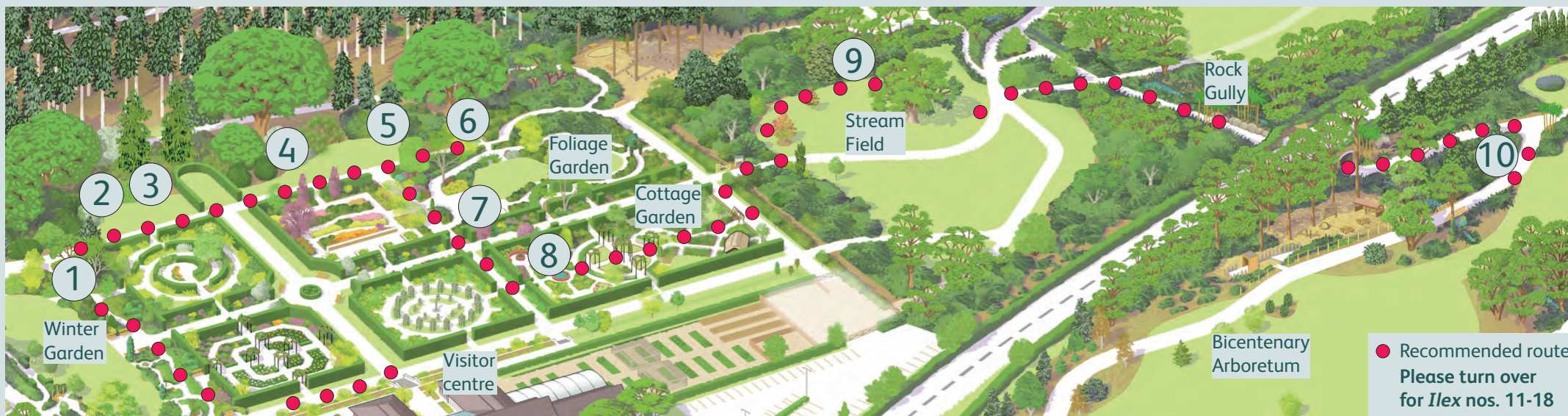
Carry on along the track, past the fernery and no. 17 is close by the steps to the Stone Garden. Then, to avoid the steps, double back, go left onto the Cherry Garden lawn and no. 18 is next to the Stone Garden shelter.

17. *Ilex macropoda*. A deciduous species native to east Asia. Regular branch system. The red fruits are particularly attractive with the yellow autumn foliage.

18. *Ilex crenata* (Fastigiata Group) 'Fastigiata' (f) AGM. An old selection found growing wild in Japan. Forms a narrow very upright plant with black berries.



RHS/Sheila Dearing



The Hollies (genus *Ilex*), are very diverse (there are 500 or so known species) and this trail highlights a small selection of those held at Rosemoor. There will be a few surprises and we hope to make you more aware of the possibilities for *Ilex* in your garden.

There are a few important factors to take into account to ensure the successful cultivation of *Ilex*.

- Hollies are generally happy in any good garden soil, as long as they do not become waterlogged.
- Some hollies, e.g. *Ilex aquifolium* 'J.C. van Tol' AGM and *Ilex aquifolium* 'Pyramidalis' AGM are self-fertile and will set fruit in isolation.
- Most female hollies will bear fruit dependably, but if they don't, plant a male to ensure pollination.
- Some names can be misleading; *I. x altaclerensis* 'Golden King' AGM is female/variegated (f/v) and *I. x altaclerensis* 'Golden Queen' AGM is male/variegated (m/v). Avoid sterile cultivars such as *I. aquifolium* 'Ferox' as a pollen parent.

We start the trail in the Winter Garden; the first holly is on the left, at the junction with the lower path to the lawn. Then we move to the shrubby borders (2,3,4,5).

1. *Ilex crenata* 'Shiro Fukurin' (f/v). An old Japanese cultivar. White variegation and faded green centre gives an overall pale look. An upright shrub with an open habit.

2. *Ilex x meserveae* BLUE ANGEL 'Conang' (f). Large dense shrub of very dark green-purple foliage and dark purple stems. Masses of glossy rich red fruit.

3. *Ilex aquifolium* 'Handsworth New Silver' (f/v) AGM. Originating around 1850. Neat upright habit. Particularly attractive because of the variegated foliage held on dark purple stems. Pictured on front cover.

4. *Ilex aquifolium* 'Ferox Argentea' (m/v) AGM (sterile). First recorded in England in 1662. Spines on the surface of the leaves as well as along the margins.

5. *Ilex aquifolium* 'Golden van Tol' (f/v). Variegated form of *I. aquifolium* 'J.C. van Tol' (f) AGM which is seen in the hedge bordering the Hot Garden. Both are self-fertile; large, red berries are guaranteed.

Follow the path through the trained *Sorbus* to *Ilex* 6, then double back and turn left onto the main pathway to Foliage Garden entrance. No. 7 is just before the lawn.

6. *Ilex x altaclerensis* 'Lawsoniana' (f/v) AGM. A sport of the non-variegated cultivar 'Hendersonii' to which it often reverts. Distributed in 1870s by Lawsons Nursery.

7. *Ilex crenata* 'Dwarf Pagoda' (f). Small, upright, slow-growing cultivar with dense foliage and black berries. It is suited to rock gardens or for training as a bonsai.

Turn back to the main path, turn left and enter the Herb Garden on the left. The next holly edges the borders.

8. *Ilex crenata* 'Green Hedger' AGM. *I. crenata* cultivars are ideally suited to clipping and make attractive low hedges. With box blight becoming increasingly prevalent this plant can be used as a substitute.

Now make your way through the Cottage Garden to the Stream Field and walk along the edge of the border.

9. *Ilex* 'Mary Nell' (f). A lovely cultivar that has downward sweeping stems with shiny swept back foliage. Berries tightly packed against the stems mature very late, usually only turning to orange.

Cut across the field to go through the Rock Gully. Note the hollies growing among the rocks, in particular *Ilex crenata* cultivars, No. 10 is on the right of the path to the Bicentenary Arboretum.

10. *Ilex yunnanensis*. Shrubs or small trees to 5m from the mountains of Western China. Weeping branches are emphasised by the pink young growths in spring.

● Recommended route
Please turn over
for *Ilex* nos. 11-18