



***Ilex verticillata* - Winterberry**

COMMON NAME: Winterberry, Canada Holly, Fever Bush, Michigan Holly

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *ilex verticillata* (ancient Latin name of the holly oak, not holly)

FLOWERS: Very small, white, dioecious (male and female flowers occur on separate plants.)

BLOOMING PERIOD: June – July

SIZE: Variable. Deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub, 6 to 15 feet tall. Tends to sucker and form large clumps.

BEHAVIOR: Grows in broad spreading manner. Fruit is red and ripens in August and September. Deciduous leaves, 2-4 inches, on alternate branches. No fall color.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Prefers moist to wet, good quality soil. Tolerates shade, but needs strong light and at least a few hours of sunlight each day to flower.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Male and female shrubs are necessary for fruit production. Birds enjoy the small, red fruits that remain on branches throughout most of winter unless the birds eat them.

NATURAL RANGE: Newfoundland to Minnesota, to Georgia, Louisiana and Missouri. In Wisconsin it is more common in the central and northern parts of the state.

SUGGESTED CARE: Provide plenty of water. Protect from rabbits by providing a fence. Need 1 male for every 3-5 female plants to ensure fruit production.

COMPANION PLANTS: Winterberry is found in bogs and boggy woodlands and wetlands along with cinnamon fern spinulose woodfern, Canada mayflower, steeple bush, meadow sweet and red maple.