
Wildflower Spot – December 2006
John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society

WINTERBERRY

Ilex verticillata

By Helen Hamilton, *President of the John Clayton Chapter, VNPS*

Truly a spectacular sight in winter – long whips of red berries against a white background, or any place where a spot of bright red is welcome. This holly loses its leaves in late fall and until eaten by songbirds, the sharp red berries are a standout in the winter landscape. Winterberry likes soil somewhat wet and grows to 15 feet tall. It does well in light shade to full sun. Tiny white flowers appear in June, hidden among dull green leaves with coarse teeth. ❖



Photo: Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) taken by Jan Newton, Helen Hamilton and Phillip Merrit
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