

Maintenance

Tips & Tricks



i-LEX IT!®



► encourage good initial take-off. Gradually, the roots will extend through this planting medium and acclimatise to the surrounding garden soil. A slightly acidic soil will improve the rooting of the Ilex crenata and accelerate their growing process.

* There are test kits on the market that allow you to determine the PH value of the soil.

PLANTING:

Container grown plants: remove from pot and gently tease out surface roots. Immerse in a bucket of water to ensure plant is fully hydrated before planting.

Root-balled plants: these can be planted entire with their hessian root-wrap, however, we recommend removal of the cloth to facilitate uninhibited spread of the roots.

Ensure that the top of the root-ball is flush with the finished surface of the soil. If a dense hedge is required, it is important to arrange plants shoulder to shoulder in their planting trench.

TIP: Roots of Ilex crenata will not tolerate being paved-over. The area immediately around each plant should be kept open and receptive to regular water and nutrition.

The best period for planting root-balled specimens is from end of September til the middle of May. Container- grown plants can be planted throughout the year. However, please note! It is inadvisable to plant either form on frosty days when frozen soils are not friable and will not make good contact with the rootball.

SOIL:

Ilex crenata roots are fine, densely branched and largely close to the surface. Consequently, the structure of the top layer of soil will have significant influence over successful plant growth. Ideally, soils should be rich in humus and free-draining, so that they remain only slightly moist. Please avoid planting into heavy clay or water-retentive soils, or any soil with a high PH value (PH > 7.5 - 8).*

PLACE IN THE GARDEN:

Ilex crenata prefers an open aspect, but will also tolerate light, dappled shade.

PLANTHOLE:

Planting holes should be made slightly larger than the root-ball, then partially re-filled with an ericaceous planting medium to ►

PRUNING:

Ilex crenata lends itself to creative pruning: whether hedge, globe, cube, cone or something more abstract. Pruning should be performed twice each year: Initially at the end of May / early June, then again later at the end of August / early September. The initial pruning can be relatively hard, cutting into mature wood to encourage regrowth and regular branching. The second pruning (end of August / early September) need be only a light tipping of young shoots. By adopting this double pruning, plants will achieve a dense and neat growth habit.

Caution! It is unwise to perform pruning on hot sunny days when there is risk of unsightly leaf scorch.

HEALTH:

Our plants are grown in clean and healthy nursery environment giving them a natural robusticity. Grown under the recommended soil, moisture and climate conditions, they are relatively untroubled by pests and diseases.