

SOUTHERN LIVING PLANT COLLECTION

Red Sky Ilex

Ilex crenata Hybrid 'RutHol8'

Looking for a stunning plant that will add a pop of color and texture to your landscape? Look no further than Red Sky Holly from the Southern Living Plant Collection.

This evergreen shrub boasts glossy, dark green foliage with a unique, bold red tint that stands out in any setting. The tiny leaves have a serrated edge, giving the plant an attractive, textured appearance that adds visual interest to your garden or yard. Its upright appearance is similar to the traditional sky pencil holly, but the red tint in its foliage adds more visual interest.

Red Sky Pencil Holly is also incredibly low maintenance, making it an excellent choice for busy gardeners or those who want to enjoy their plants without much fuss. It's drought-tolerant once established to handle hot, dry weather without constant watering. And with its slow-growing nature, you won't have to worry about it taking over your yard or requiring constant pruning. It's also deer-resistant, so you can enjoy its beauty without worrying about it being eaten by wildlife. So, if you're looking for a beautiful, easy-to-care-for plant that adds color and texture to your landscape, consider Red Sky Holly from Southern Living Plants.

Scientific Name- Ilex crenata Hybrid 'RutHol8'

Hardiness Zone- 6, 7, 8, 9

Sun Exposure- Full Sun to Part Shade

Evergreen or Deciduous- Evergreen

Features- Deer Resistant, Drought Tolerant

Feature Color- Green

Uses- Accent, Foundation Planting, Hedge, Privacy Planting, Specimen

Water Needs= Medium

Bloom Season- None

Planting Instructions

Dig a Hole

First, dig a hole three times the width of the root ball of your plant. This makes it easier for the root system to spread out quickly. Dig the hole deep enough that your plant will sit level with or slightly above the ground around it.

Amend Your Soil

Mix your native soil with rich gardening soil to provide extra nutrients and support plant growth. If your soil is clay-heavy, we recommend mixing your native clay soil with equal parts of Pine Bark mulch to improve drainage and the overall breathability of your soil.

Place Your Plant

Examine the roots. If they appear tightly bound, gently coax them apart; this ensures they can spread into the new soil. Place your plant in the hole so the top of the rootball is even with the surrounding soil—Backfill around it with the amended soil mixture. The roots need access to oxygen for your plant to thrive, so do not cover the rootball; place soil around it.

Mulch Your Plants

Top the soil beneath your plant with 3-4 inches of mulch to help it retain moisture. Be careful not to cover the rootball - your new plants roots need access to oxygen.

Water Your Plant

Soak the plant with a hose afterward to hydrate the plant, as well as get the soil and mulch situated. Develop a regular watering schedule based on your plant's needs and local weather patterns. Remember, over watering is just as, if not more, harmful than under watering.

Red Sky (Ilex) Holly Spacing Recommendations

Space Your Red Sky (Ilex) Holly 2-3 ft apart to form an evergreen hedge or natural privacy barrier using the shrubs. If you are looking to cover more ground placing them 4 feet apart or more may be more suitable for your needs. The slender, tall growth habit makes these unique plants multi-functional.