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6010 Lyndale Ave. S Minneapolis, MN 55419 Phone: 612-861-7646 landscapeinquiry@bachmans.com

Afterglow Winterberry

Ilex verticillata "Afterglow"

Ilex verticillata "Afterglow" fruit
Photo courtesy of Northscaping.com

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Black Alder

Description:

A deciduous holly valued for its extremely colorful scarlet berries which last throughout winter, requires a male pollinator; upright growth habit, suckers into colonies; requires moist to wet acidic soils, good for problem areas; excellent when massed

Ornamental Features:

Afterglow Winterberry has dark green foliage throughout the season. The pointy leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color. The flowers are not ornamentally significant. It features an abundance of magnificent tomato-orange berries from mid fall right through to late winter. This is a female variety of the species which requires a male selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit. The smooth brown bark is not particularly outstanding.

Ilex verticillata 'Afterglow'
Photo courtesy of Northscaping.com

Landscape Attributes:

Afterglow Winterberry is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a shapely oval form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Afterglow Winterberry is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- General Garden Use
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Plant Characteristics:

Afterglow Winterberry will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the leaves in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder zones.

This is a selection of a native North American species.