

# A BACKYARD NOTEBOOK

## A Brief Summary of Personal Experimentation with Natives as Backyard Plants

(Second in a Series)

by Doris Rosebraugh



*Drawing for Naples Chapter  
note cards (1/2 size)*

### DAHOON HOLLY (*Ilex Cassine*)

West and Arnold list mature height at 40 ft. Joyce Gann's Native Tree List places it in the medium/small category. My own experience with older specimens have verified this information. The growth rate is moderately fast and — with pushing — could be fast. Two specimens planted on my property in Nov. 1979, topping out at about 7' and in lario containers, are now double in height, spread, and trunk caliper. The soil they are in is marl to about 2 to 2 1/2 feet over the more usual oolite foundation. The planting holes were backfilled with existing soil enriched with Osmocote (14-14-14) and peat moss. They have spurted up and out.

The female produced a large crop of berries last year and in July of 1982 had another crop. These berries will hold and offer a nice show of color through the winter months (if the mockingbirds and catbirds don't eat them all).

After the initial "extra-care" period in 1980 when ample water was supplied, they were allowed to go on their own with supplemental water only during long dry periods. One is mulched with shredded cypress and leaf fall, while the other (female) is in lawn area, and there is no appreciable difference in their growth.

For design uses, I recommend a grouping of three: two females and a male for cross pollination. As their nature is not spreading, they would be nice townhouse garden trees and accent trees for entry areas.