

For Anton, Donna and son Erik Rustand, holly is a way of life all year long. Their "holy-days" began in 1974, when Anton and Donna were house hunting and fell in love with a neglected holly farm.

The farm, located on top of beautiful Meadowbrook Hill in Mulino, Oregon, had 760 trees on 7 ½ acres. Although Anton, a native of Norway, was a forester and Donna had training as a florist, they knew nothing about holly.

The property was in such bad shape, the county agent told them, they'd have to cut all the limbs off the trunks and make the trees start over.

The hopeful holly farmers backed off from that drastic treatment and instead started single-handedly nursing their trees back to health, by spreading fertilizer and pruning sick and dead branches.

That first year they battled moles, gophers, mice, birds and berry vines. They brought in bee hives to help pollinate the trees. Lo and behold in 1975 their first harvest yielded 8 tons of holly!

Anton also began converting many of the abundant English Green holly trees by cutting the trees to the trunk line. His unique grafting technique resulted in some awesome variegated holly trees!

During the years to come, many things would come to pass. The Rustands moved back to Bend, Oregon in 1985 and continue to operate the holly farm in Mulino.

Anton, who for three years was President of the Oregon Holly Growers Association, remains a busy retired working man in the holly orchard.

Donna, who is retired from her job as an elementary music specialist, stays busy playing the harp for the sick and dying.

Erik, married Annie in 2002. He is a pilot and has also built his own plane; which is handy for quick trips to and from the farm.

The love of the holly trees and the love of family made Holly Hill Farm a dream come true for Anton and Donna and hopefully for generations to come.

Holly Facts & Folklore

Holly is called Kristtorn in Norway, because of the belief that the crown of thorns placed on the head of Christ was formed from spiny holly leaves.

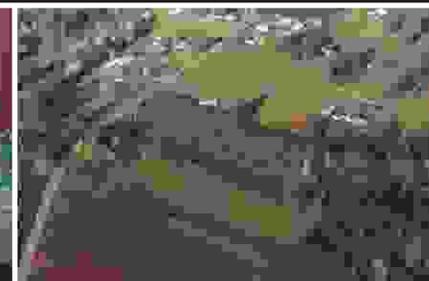
Under good conditions, holly trees can live to be 300 years old and still produce holly.

English custom decrees that honey bees be wished a merry Christmas by attaching a sprig of holly to each hive.

There are more than 500 subspecies of holly worldwide.

Romans exchanged gifts of holly branches with the Greeks as a symbol of friendship.

Holly has been part of the winter holiday tradition since Druids first hung it in their homes to welcome forest spirits.



Product & Box Sizes

Variegated Holly

#5 box – 35" x 9.25" x 7"

* #10 box – 35" x 13.25" x 11.75"

English Green

#5 box – 35" x 9.25" x 7"

#10 box – 35" x 13.25" x 9.75"

Variegated & English Holly Mixture

#5 box – 35" x 9.25" x 7"

#10 box – 35" x 13.25" x 11.75"

* *Variegated berries weigh less, hence the larger box.*

Care of Cut "hormone dipped" Holly

For longest lasting use, keep holly cool, but
DO NOT let it freeze (33°f – 38°f).

If put in water and treated like cut flowers,
holly easily keeps nice for 3 to 4 weeks.

High room temperatures shorten the keeping age
and causes holly to defoliate sooner.

DO NOT crunch any berries and then pack the holly for
shipping. The result will be defoliation, because of the
developed gas from the cracked berries.

Just treat dipped holly as cut flowers
and you will have the best results.

DO NOT use in or on food.
This product has been chemically treated.



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Variegated & English Green Holly

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