

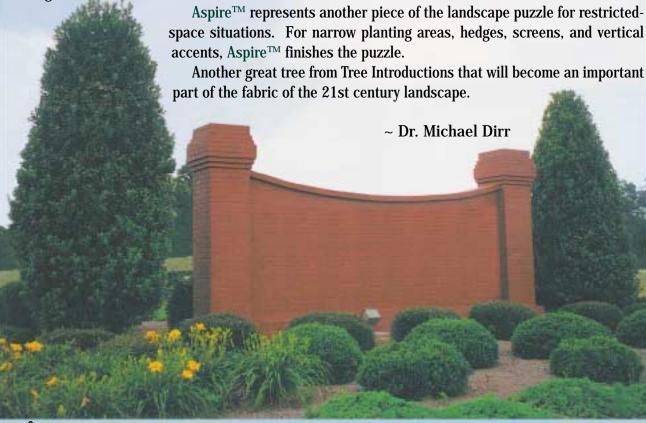
Ilex x 'STBB' Aspire™ Holly

The landscape world is rich with hollies of all shapes, configurations, leaf characteristics, and fruiting qualities. The question you ask...Is there room for another holly introduction? Thinking broadly, perhaps pointedly, the logic behind the introduction of $\mathit{Ilex}\,x$ 'STBB' AspireTM becomes obvious. Hundreds of "green meatball" hollies surround homes throughout the landscape world. Reflect for a moment on worthy upright screening hollies. The number dwindles to a precious few, hence the ascent of AspireTM to a place of prominence in this rarified upright atmosphere.

Aspire $^{\text{TM}}$, found by Future Trees, Inc., Statesboro, GA, has a narrow-pyramidal habit, ultimately growing to approximately 20 feet high and approximately 10 feet at the base. The foliage is lustrous dark green, without prominent spines, and holds this color throughout the winter. The parentage is likely *Ilex integra* x *Ilex aquifolium*, two of the most beautiful foliaged and fruited species of the more than 400 that are known worldwide.

AspireTM also produces prodigious quantities of 1/3" in diameter, rounded rich red berries that are present into winter. The fruit quantity, size, and color delineate AspireTM from the other tree-type hollies.

Culturally, AspireTM requires similar conditions as other broadleaf evergreen hollies. Moist, well-drained soils and sun to partial shade are ideal. Optimal performance is projected to be realized in zones 7 through 9.





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