**Introduction**

`Angustifolia` Dahoon Holly has narrower, more linear leaves than the species and more berries. Attractive when tightly clipped into a tall screen or allowed to grow naturally into its single or multi-trunked, small-tree form, `Angustifolia` Dahoon Holly is ideal for a variety of landscape settings. Capable of reaching 40 feet in height, it is usually seen at a height of 20 to 30 feet with a 10 to 18-foot spread. The smooth, supple, shiny, dark green, evergreen leaves, two to three inches long, have just a few serrations near the tip. Possessing male and female flowers on separate plants, at least two `Angustifolia` Dahoon Hollies must be planted in the landscape to ensure production of the brilliant red, sometimes yellow, small berries in fall and winter. The berries serve as an excellent food source for wildlife.

**General Information**

- **Scientific name:** *Ilex cassine*
- **Pronunciation:** EYE-lecks kuh-SIGH-nee
- **Common name(s):** `Angustifolia` Dahoon Holly
- **Family:** Aquifoliaceae
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 7A through 11 (Fig. 2)
- **Origin:** native to North America
- **Invasive potential:** little invasive potential
- **Uses:** hedge; screen; specimen; deck or patio; reclamation; tree lawn 3-4 feet wide; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; container or planter; Bonsai; highway median
- **Availability:** generally available

Figure 1. Middle-aged *Ilex cassine* `Angustifolia`: `Angustifolia` Dahoon Holly  
Credits: Ed Gilman

Figure 2. Range
**Description**

Height: 20 to 30 feet  
Spread: 10 to 18 feet  
Crown uniformity: irregular  
Crown shape: round, vase  
Crown density: dense  
Growth rate: moderate  
Texture: fine

**Foliage**

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)  
Leaf type: simple  
Leaf margin: entire, pectinate  
Leaf shape: oblong, oblanceolate  
Leaf venation: pinnate  
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen  
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches  
Leaf color: green  
Fall color: no color change  
Fall characteristic: not showy

**Flower**

Flower color: white/cream/gray  
Flower characteristics: not showy

**Fruit**

Fruit shape: round  
Fruit length: less than .5 inch  
Fruit covering: fleshy  
Fruit color: red  
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

**Trunk and Branches**

Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; not showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns  
Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure  
Breakage: resistant

**Current year twig color:** green, brown  
**Current year twig thickness:** thin  
**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

**Culture**

Light requirement: full sun, partial sun or partial shade  
Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; slightly alkaline; acidic; extended flooding; well-drained  
Drought tolerance: moderate  
Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

**Other**

Roots: not a problem  
Winter interest: no  
Outstanding tree: no  
Ozone sensitivity: unknown  
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: resistant  
Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

**Use and Management**

It lends itself well to use as a specimen or small patio or shade tree, and is ideal for naturalizing in moist locations. It appears to adapt well to the confined spaces of urban and downtown landscapes but will require pruning of the drooping branches to create clearance below for pedestrians and traffic. Best to locate the plant where it will not require removal of these drooping branches to allow for the full development of the rounded, vase-shaped form. It would make a nice, fine-textured component in a shrub border or could be planted as a screen 10 feet apart.

Growing well in full sun to partial shade, ’Angustifolia’ Dahoon Holly does best on moist soils, and is found on wet, boggy soils of swamps in its native environment. It can tolerate drier locations with some watering but may have a thin crown.

**Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern.