

**Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family) Key**  
**Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador**  
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- 1a. Leaves green, membranaceous; blades elliptic, lanceolate, to oblanceolate, to 7 cm long; margins entire, except for a few bristle-tipped teeth near the mucronate apex; petioles purple; flowers unisexual (plants dioecious), occasionally also bisexual, axillary, on long peduncles, 2.5 cm long; petals 4–5, yellow, linear; male flowers have 4–5 stamens; fruit a magenta (rarely pale yellow) drupe. .... ***Ilex mucronata*** (winterberry)
- 1b. Leaves dark green, firm; blades elliptic to obovate, 2–10 cm long; margins sharply serrate, apex abruptly acuminate; petioles green; flowers unisexual, occasionally also bisexual, axillary, on very short pedicels; corolla usually 6–8-lobed, white; male flowers have 4–8 stamens; fruit a red drupe..... ***Ilex verticillata*** (mountain holly)

***Ilex* (Aquifoliaceae) Comparison Chart**

Species:	<b><i>Ilex mucronata</i></b>	<b><i>Ilex verticillata</i></b>
	mountain holly	winterberry
Leaves	<b>blades elliptic, oblong, to oblanceolate; yellow green, dull</b> , to 7 cm long; apices blunt to acute, <b>mucronate</b> ; bases tapering to rounded; <b>margins entire</b> , or with a few small bristle-tipped teeth near the apex; <b>petioles distinctly purple</b>	<b>blades elliptic to obovate, dark green, shiny, 2–10 cm long</b> ; apices acute to abruptly acuminate; bases tapering; <b>margins sharply serrate</b> ; petioles green
Flowers	flowers open before leaves emerge; peduncles 1–2 cm long; <b>petals 4–5, yellow, linear</b>	flowers open as leaves expand; <b>pedicels very short; corolla white, with 5–8 rounded lobes</b>
Stamens	stamens 4–5	stamens 4–8
Fruit	<b>purplish-red or magenta drupes</b> ; 6–10 mm diam.; <b>pedicels elongate in fruit to 2.5+ cm</b>	<b>orange-red to red drupes</b> ; 5–7 mm diam.; <b>persisting well into winter</b>