Native Plant of the Year:

Common Winterberry

*Ilex verticillata*

**Unique Characteristics**

Common winterberry produces brilliant red berries that attract birds late into the winter. Cut branches offer a colorful accent to holiday wreaths and decorations. Native to swampy areas, winterberry is a low maintenance plant that will thrive in wet or well-drained sites. Both male and female plants are required for fruit set; one male is sufficient to pollinate ten female plants.

**Native range:** Eastern North America

**Plant type:** Deciduous shrub

**Hardiness zone:** 3 to 9

**Height:** 8 to 16 feet

**Width:** 4 to 8 feet

**pH:** 4.5 to 7.5

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Photos courtesy of Anna McCallah (top) and Judy Source (bottom left and right)