



OGDEN'S DESIGN & PLANTINGS, INC.

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MRS. MESERVE

Design & Installation:

- Natural Gardens
- Distinctive Gardens
- Bed Maintenance
- Therapeutic Gardens
- Paths & Patios
- Stone & Brickwork
- Specialty Gardens
- Seasonal Color & Interest

Fall To-Do List:

- Install plants & gardens
- Transplant deciduous & evergreen trees
- Clean out annuals & vegetable plants
- Remove dead, diseased & broken branches from trees & shrubs
- Cut back & mulch perennials
- Start a compost pile
- Plant spring flowering bulbs until ground freezes
- Plant fall containers

Ogdenwords:

Hybrid - the result of cross-fertilizing two or more species or genera of plant

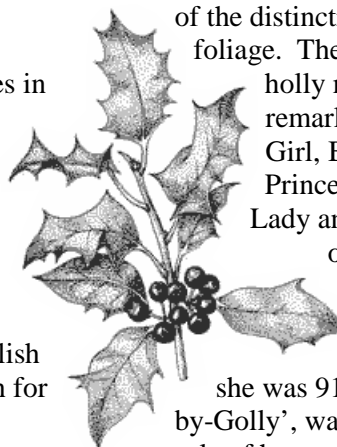
Cultivar - a hybrid name derived from CULTIVATED VARIETY and applied to a plant that has originated and persisted under cultivation

If you have a holly in your yard, you probably have Kathleen Leighton Meserve to thank. She was an amateur horticulturist who developed some of Long Island's most popular, durable and beautiful hollies. Originally, Mrs. Meserve was a city girl; growing up on Park Avenue. During World War II, she settled on a 10-acre estate in St. James and began to 'cultivate' her passion for gardening.

She grew her own vegetables in what became popularly known as a 'Victory Garden'. Eventually, local garden club lectures piqued her interest in hollies. At the time, hollies with the most beautiful foliage and berries were the fragile English varieties – not hardy enough for Long Island. Mrs. Meserve didn't have the scientific background to know what her limitations should have been. Nonetheless, with a budget of only \$15, she proceeded to cross-breed hollies with enthusiasm. By the 1950's she had become a successful 'pollen dabbler'. Her work was engineered, as she liked to tell folks, "...in a kitchen by an amateur gardener whose formal study of botany ended in the fifth grade".

Ultimately, her dedication along with a little serendipity paid off! After one

particularly bitter winter in 1956 she lost all of her holly hybrids except those with *Ilex rugosa* as a parent. So she began to breed the rugged *Ilex rugosa* with *Ilex aquifolium*, a variety that has attractive foliage and bright red fruit. Mrs. Meserve produced several cultivars that were both gorgeous and extremely cold hardy. Her hybrids became known collectively as the 'Blue Series' because of the distinctive bluish tint to their foliage. The affect she's had on the holly market has been remarkable! Blue Angel, Blue Girl, Blue Boy, Blue Maid, Blue Princess, Blue Stallion, Dragon Lady and China Girl are but a few of her introductions! Mrs. Meserve's last hybrid, Centennial Girl, was introduced in 1997 when she was 91. Her estate, the 'Holly-by-Golly', was maintained through the sale of her patents.



In 1975 Mrs. Meserve was presented with the 'American Horticultural Society's Citation of Outstanding Contributions to Amateur Horticulture'. But perhaps her most satisfying award was the Reginald Cory Memorial Cup presented by the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain.

Mrs. Meserve died in May 1999 at the age of 93 leaving us a legacy of hollies which have become the American standard of beauty and durability.



All-Season Containers

These great fiberstone pots are perfect for year-round use. They are half the weight of cement and come in many styles and finishes.

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OGDEN'S
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650 N COUNTRY RD, ST JAMES, NEW YORK 11780

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THE HOLLY BEARS THE CROWN

Plant of the Month

Common Name: Blue Princess Holly

Scientific Name: *Ilex x meserveae* 'Blue Princess' (I' leks - ME serv i e)

Family Name: Aquifoliaceae



Description: Evergreen woody shrub.

Mature Size & Growth Rate: Slow growth rate, maximum height of 12' but a height of 8' is more common.

Flower: Inconspicuous white flowers appear in late spring.

Cultural Requirements: Full sun or light shade; moist, well-drained soil.

Additional Comments: The acknowledged most beautiful and popular cultivar in the Blue Holly series is the 'Blue Princess'. This holly is outstanding when grown in a natural woodland setting or as a specimen plant highlighting its abundance of dark red berries. The 'Blue Princess' holly has gorgeous, shiny, dark blue-green foliage. It's a heavy fruit setter but keep in mind that holly plants are either male or female and fruit production requires pollination by a neighboring 'Blue Prince'. One prince can handle a harem of princesses!