

Oregon Grape Good Substitute For Holly at Christmastime

By AL HOBART

The West has no native holly, and each year when the holiday season rolls around and it's time for our traditional Christmas holly decoration, unless we happen to have a cultivated holly tree growing in the yard, we have to buy imported or nursery holly.

But here in Oregon, as well as in northern California and western Washington, we have a native alternative plant that serves very well as a Christmas substitute for holly. It is Oregon grape, *Berberis aquifolium*. True, the familiar red berries are missing, but that vacancy is easily filled; for our purpose the important feature of Oregon grape is the prickly, holly-like foliage.

Oregon grape, or mountain grape, as it is sometimes called,

is an erect, or sometimes half prostrate, shrub. Under ideal conditions it sometimes gets to be eight or ten feet high, usually from two to four feet. Its compound leaves have about seven leaflets. These, like the leaves of holly, have wavy edges and numerous sharp spines. The leaflets are glossy green above and duller, grayish-green beneath. The beautiful flowers of summer are a conspicuous bright yellow and grow in short dense clusters at the top of the stem and in the axils. These are later replaced by bunches of blue berries that have a slightly bluish cast.

Other Species

There are several other species of plant in our area that are similar to Oregon grape and very closely related to it. They all belong to the Barberry family and to the genus *Berberis*. Oregon grape is much the largest of the various species. They are all called barberries or mahonias, in referring to the same plants. Oregon grape is sometimes called Hollyleaf Mahonia, sometimes Holly-leaved Barberry.

One of our other species of barberry, or mahonia, is named long-leaved Oregon grape — *Berberis nervosa*. It, too, is a very attractive plant, and similar to Oregon grape except smaller and with leaflets having shiny yellowish-green under-surfaces instead of dull grayish-green.

But the biggest and prettiest of all the mahonias is *Berberis aquifolium*, THE Oregon Grape. It is often cultivated as an ornamental, and its beauty and popularity are attested to by the fact that all the beautiful wildflowers found growing in this lovely green state, the Oregon grape was chosen as the state flower of Oregon.

The generic name, *Berberis*, means barberry; the specific name, *aquifolium*, means needle-leaved. You'll no doubt remember this last-named when you're doing your holiday decorating—with plenty of nice Christmassy Oregon Grape, of course.

A number of sly and secret scientific investigations have revealed the interesting and significant fact that when Santa Clause jumps out of the fireplace at midnight, and his glances light first on one set of bright green leaves, then on the other, his bright little eyes sparkle and dance just a wee bit more for Oregon grape than for holly. This, of course, is because it's Oregon's own.

So if you find at the last moment that the holly you were banking on for Christmas is among the missing, just send Junior out into the woods after an armful of Oregon grape. If it's beautiful enough to be chosen as the state's number one wildplant, and is good enough for old Santa, then it should be plenty good enough to brighten up the premises at Christmastime.



RECEIVES AWARD—Mrs. Marjorie Pennington, right, chief of the voucher audit section of the Veterans' Domiciliary at Camp White, recently was presented an award for superior accomplishment during 1956. She is shown with Susie Vincent, chief of the fiscal division, and H. Jaffrey, acting manager of Camp White. All civil service employees at the station are eligible to participate in the bonus awards, which are offered as an added incentive toward better sustained performance of duty. The award presented Mrs. Pennington consists of about 3 per cent of her yearly salary. Two similar awards were presented to members of the fiscal division in August, 1956. They went to Mrs. Martha Black, chief of the employees' accounts section, and to Mrs. Inez Friel, chief of the general ledger unit.

Hollenbeck Home Scene of Party

Prospect—The Lion's auxiliary of Prospect held the annual Christmas party at the ranch home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hollenbeck, Red Bluff.

The auxiliary will fill several Christmas baskets and distribute them to underprivileged families in the Prospect district.

Games were played during the evening and gifts were exchanged. The party closed with refreshments.

Mrs. Da Chapman was a guest.

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Around Hollywood

Hollywood — (U.P.)—Burt Lancaster, actor, has another set of problems when he turns his hat around and becomes a producer: Being sued by Oscar-winner Ernest Borgnine, which, Lancaster says, is Borgnine's "mistake."

Lancaster is the only star who also is a successful big-time producer. His company, with partners James Hill and Harold Hecht, has turned out such hits as "Marty" and "Trapeze" and now ranks with the Samuel Goldwyn studio as a big independent movie-making company.

But the job is not without headaches, such as when Lancaster, who himself fought his bosses years ago for better working conditions, finds himself being sued by an actor making the same beef. Awaiting a court hearing is Borgnine's complicated suit in which he asks changes in the contract he signed with Hecht-Hill-Lancaster before "Marty" made him a star.

Normal Position

"Our position is a very normal one," Lancaster, the producer, said.

"We've been extremely nice to this boy. I remember how I was treated under my contract with Hal Wallis so when we started this company I said, let's not treat the actors as they usually are treated. Let's be fair."

"Any actor has the right to make demands—until he gets to the point of no return. No, I wasn't surprised when Borgnine sued. You never know what people are like until they're in

Wednesday, December 19, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—THREE

United Press Correspondent
By ALINE MOSBY

an emergency or crisis. Funny thing," the intense, fast-talking Lancaster added, "it was the one who fought for Borgnine to be given the lead in 'Marty'."

The Borgnine battle is only one of Lancaster's chores as a producer. He now is starring in his company's "Sweet Smell of Success." Although Hill is credited as producer, Lancaster sits in on casting and script conferences.

Flamboyant Role

This year Lancaster also found time to help produce "The Bachelor Party" and star for his old boss, Hal Wallis, in "The Rainmaker." The latter flamboyant role should snare Lancaster his second Oscar nomination. It has been called by some critics his best performance.

Why has Lancaster, incidentally, made a go of the tough producing business — a challenge that has stumped many other actors? "We have reasonably good taste, we know what we're doing, we seldom disagree," Lancaster said.

answered promptly. "But most important, we aren't interested in just money, but in making good pictures. This is the fun—to make movies that reflect our taste."

"I turned producer because there are many actors who are long past their peak who still are around. But some day when people say about me, this fellow is a bum, he can't act, I can go on in this town for 10 years making a good living as a producer."

Nashville, Tenn. — (U.P.)—Mrs. Herbert York came upon an old egg while cleaning her father's trunk. The egg had this notation on it, "Carried baby see Uncle Jimmy," and a date of 40 years ago.

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Society

Girl Scouts

Courtesy Held

A small court of awards was held December 17 at the home of Mrs. Ralph Thompson, 18 North Modoc avenue by Troop 140, made up of sixth grade girls, Roosevelt annex in honor of three of their members. Honored at the meeting was Pat Emig, who is leaving the troop since her family is moving to Portland. She received the second class badge, and proficiency badges in pottery and child care. Also receiving second class badges were Louise Ekerson and Cynthia Barnett.

The whole troop is working on the pottery badge and have made the Christmas project in that medium. Each troop meeting for three weeks the girls and leaders went to Eagle Point where Mrs. John Winton of Long Mountain Road instructed them in the use of pottery clay and tools.

Assistance on the child care badge was given by Mrs. Otto Emig and her son, Mike.

There was an exchange of Christmas gifts at the meeting, and troop mothers attended.

Leaders of Troop 140 are Mrs. Glen Bessoneite and Mrs. Herman Ekerson; the troop usually meets at the Ekerson home, at 42 South Groveland avenue. Troop committee members are Mrs. Ralph Thompson, Mrs. Scott Ellis and Mrs. David Kolbik.

The troop also took part in the Christmas parade.

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No room for a Christmas tree? Then, here's a suggestion from General Electric holiday lighting specialists that you will want to keep in mind. Transform a Venetian blind into a "tree" by wrapping the slats with strips of dark green fire-resistant crepe paper. Arrange lights along the outline of the tree. Clip them in an upright position and conceal wires behind the slats. Decorate with tiny ornaments and arrange a table beneath the three to hold gaily wrapped packages.

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