‘Schilling’s Dwarf’ Holly
Ilex vomitoria

Introduction
The symmetrical, dense, rounded form of Schilling’s Dwarf Holly requires infrequent pruning to maintain its four to six-foot height and spread (Fig. 1). Ideally suited as lowgrowing foundation plants, Schilling’s Dwarf Holly works well as a tall groundcover for it forms a low dense cover of green foliage when planted in mass. It is often sheared into low hedges in formal gardens, similar to the boxwoods in the early American gardens. The small, dark green leaves have a reddish cast when they are young and no spines. This cultivar of a male plant will produce no berries.

General Information
Scientific name: Ilex vomitoria ‘Schilling’s Dwarf’
Pronunciation: EYE-lecks vom-mit-TOR-ee-uh
Common name(s): ‘Schilling’s Dwarf’ Holly
Family: Aquifoliaceae
Plant type: shrub
USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 10 (Fig. 2)
Planting month for zone 9: year round
Origin: native to Florida
Uses: bonsai; foundation; mass planting; container or aboveground planter; superior hedge; espalier
Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description
Height: 4 to 7 feet
Spread: 6 to 10 feet
Plant habit: round
Plant density: dense
Growth rate: slow
Texture: fine

Foliage
Leaf arrangement: alternate
Leaf type: simple Trunk/bark/branches: not particularly showy; typically multi-
Leaf margin: serrate
Leaf shape: ovate
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: evergreen
Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy
Flower
Flower color: white
Flower characteristic: spring flowering

Fruit
Fruit shape: no fruit
Fruit length: no fruit
Fruit cover: no fruit
Fruit color: no fruit
Fruit characteristic: no fruit

Trunk and Branches
trunked or clumping stems
Current year stem/twig color: gray/silver
Current year stem/twig thickness: thin

Culture
Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: extended flooding; acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay
Drought tolerance: high
Soil salt tolerances: moderate
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other
Roots: sprouts from roots or lower trunk
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management
Growing well in sun or light shade in soils from dry to wet, Schellings Dwarf Holly withstands
drought when established and is highly salt-tolerant, making it ideally suited to seaside plantings.
It is a selection of the native Yaupon Holly which grows naturally without irrigation on the dunes
along the Atlantic Ocean. Growth rate is slow to moderate. Plant four to five feet apart for mass
planting. Be sure to set plants several feet back from a walk, driveway or lawn area, because
plants grow wider than tall and often require pruning to control their lateral growth. If you need to
prune in this manner, be sure to leave the bottom of the plant much wider than the top so lower
foliage is left on the plant. If you attempt to shear vertically, the lower branches are shaded and
often lose foliage. This will give the shrub an unsightly, dark, leafless bottom. Propagation is by
cuttings.

Pests and Diseases
No pests or diseases are of major concern.

by Edward F. Gilman