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*Ilex*

*Aquifoliaceae*

*Ilex* is the Latin name for the evergreen oak (*Quercus ilex*). Its use as the generic name for 'holly' is believed to have come about either through the resemblance between holly and the young growth of the evergreen oak or for some authorities because in the Middle Ages the name *ilex* was confused with the actual Latin name for 'holly' *ulex*.