

***Prunus ilicifolia* (Nuttall) Walp. ssp. *ilicifolia***

[*Cerasus ilicifolia* Nuttall ex Hooker & Arnott]

**Hollyleaf Cherry**

**Description:** Erect evergreen shrub/small tree to 9 m high, not thorny. Leaves evergreen, blade 16-120 mm long, widely ovate to round, margin spiny-serrate, ± wavy, base truncate to ± cordate, tip acute to rounded. Inflorescence a raceme with 15-many flowers. Flowers on 2-5-mm pedicel, sepals glabrous, entire, petals 1-3 mm, white to yellowish. Fruit a 12-18 mm-diameter drupe, ovoid to spheric, glabrous, red, pulp fleshy. Flowers in April-May.

**Habitat:** canyons, slopes, shrubland, woodland; <1,600 m.

**Distribution:** Native to coastal California south to Baja California, Mexico, including Channel Islands. Not in desert areas.

**Landscape Position:** All aspects, full sun or partial shade.

**Landscape Attributes:** Provides a dark green medium-course texture, attractive rounded shape with erect spreading branch tips, easily pruned to standard shape. Evergreen requiring no irrigation. Tolerates full sun in coastal areas. Generally with a single trunk. Bountiful white to cream-colored flowers when blooming, followed by large red cherries that can cover the tree. Pulp of fruit and seed are both edible, but the seed needs to be ground up into a flour and cooked.

