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# *Ilex × attenuata* 'Sunny Foster'

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The U.S. National Arboretum presents *Ilex × attenuata* 'Sunny Foster', a bright, bold, golden holly to highlight the dark corners of your landscape. The unique yellow variegation of this holly will definitely bring sunshine to your garden.



**U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction**  
**Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit**

U.S. National Arboretum, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, 3501 New York Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20002





## 'Sunny Foster' Foster Holly

<b>Botanical Name:</b>	<i>Ilex</i> × <i>attenuata</i> Ashe 'Sunny Foster' (NA 28309; PI 465978)
<b>Family:</b>	Aquifoliaceae
<b>Hardiness:</b>	U.S.D.A. Zone 7
<b>Development:</b>	A variegated leaf mutation was discovered on a plant of <i>Ilex</i> × <i>attenuata</i> 'Foster No. 2' at the U.S. National Arboretum by William F. Kosar in 1964. This mutation was propagated and remained stable during propagation and subsequent years of evaluation. The new plant was named 'Sunny Foster', registered with the International Registration Authority for Cultivated <i>Ilex</i> , and released March 9, 1982.
<b>Significance:</b>	'Sunny Foster' is the only known variegated sport of the popular Foster holly. The variegation is an indefinite, non-marginal type exhibiting a pale yellow color in the upper third of the leaf blade. Barely noticeable on new young leaves, it intensifies as the leaves mature. In full sun the foliage color deepens to a golden yellow, while in dense shade the variegation is less noticeable or absent.
<b>Description:</b>	<b>Height and Width:</b> To 30 feet tall. Somewhat slower growing than 'Foster No. 2'. <b>Habit:</b> Evergreen, loosely branched, narrowly pyramidal, upright large shrub to small tree. <b>Foliage:</b> Leaves 1 to 3 inches long and 1 inch wide; margins sometimes wavy with 1–6 lateral spines, with the tip spine the largest. Bright yellow coloration in direct sun; glossy medium green in shaded locations. <b>Flowers:</b> Female. Small, inconspicuous, axillary, white. <b>Fruit:</b> Red, 5/16 inch in diameter, borne singly or occasionally 2–3 in a cluster on very short lateral branches; persists through winter unless eaten by wildlife.
<b>Culture:</b>	'Sunny Foster' is readily adaptable to a wide range of soil types and a soil pH of 5.5–7.0, with 6.0 the ideal. Soil should be well-drained. Grows well in full sun to partial shade; yellow variegation is expressed more intensely in full sun.
<b>Propagation:</b>	Roots easily from semi-hardwood to hardwood cuttings taken in August, under mist, 75 °F bottom heat, 3000–5000 ppm IBA solution, 5–10 second quick dip, in 6–8 weeks.
<b>Landscape Use:</b>	Specimen, accent plant.
<b>Availability:</b>	Limited availability through specialty growers.

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November 1999