

FGCU Food Forest

Plant Database

Christmasberry (*Lycium carolinianum*)

Quick Facts

Origin: Southeastern North America; native to sandy dune areas along the coast of Florida.

Description: Christmasberry is a small shrub that can reach up to 8 ft. tall at full maturity. It has small, simple leaves with an alternate phyllotaxy. It produces flowers and small, edible berries.

Uses: Food; landscape specimen; pollinator and bird attractant.

Harvest: Year-round in Florida, but mostly in mid-spring.

Flower: Year-round in Florida, but mostly in mid-spring. Small blue, white, or yellow flowers.

Fruit: Year-round in Florida, but mostly in mid-spring. Small, oval-shaped fruit with a red color.

Tolerance: High drought tolerance; high salt tolerance; can withstand flooded soils, but prefers well-drained soil. High tolerance to a wide range of soil types. Prefers to grow in partial shade or partial sun.



General Description: Christmasberry, also known as *Lycium*, is a small shrub that can reach up to 8 ft. tall at full maturity. It has small, simple leaves with an alternate phyllotaxy. Leaves are succulent-like. Christmasberry tends to sprawl outwards, and is known to produce root suckers. Flowers have four petals and a blue-lavender color, and produce small, orange to red berries.

- **Native Origin:** Southeastern North America; native to sandy habitats in Florida, especially along the coast.

- **General History:** Christmasberry is native to southeastern North America and is popular among many animal species, particularly birds and raccoons. Native Americans may have also eaten the berries. Christmasberry attracts pollinators and birds, and has typically only been used by humans as native landscape specimens.
- **Distribution:** Southeastern North America; native to Florida.
- **Season of Harvest:** Year-round, although more so during mid-spring.
- **Culinary Uses:** Ripe berries can be eaten raw, dried, or made into a tea.

Lycium Scientific Classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Asterids
Order:	Solanales
Family:	Solanaceae
Subfamily:	Solanoideae
Tribe:	Lycieae
Genus:	<i>Lycium</i>
Species:	<i>L. carolinianum</i>

Sources

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lycium>

<http://www.eattheweeds.com/christmas-wolf-goji-theyre-all-berries-2/>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp356>

http://floridanature.org/species.asp?species=Lycium_carolinianum

http://floridanature.org/photos/Lycium_carolinianum_1a, St. Marks_NWR, 20041016.jpg

<http://eattheweeds.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/goji01.jpg>