



**Research File: Sustane® 18-1-8+Fe
Topdress (90 day) Fertility Trial
Japanese Holly (*Illex crenata*)
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Consulting Services, Rydal, Georgia – 2009**

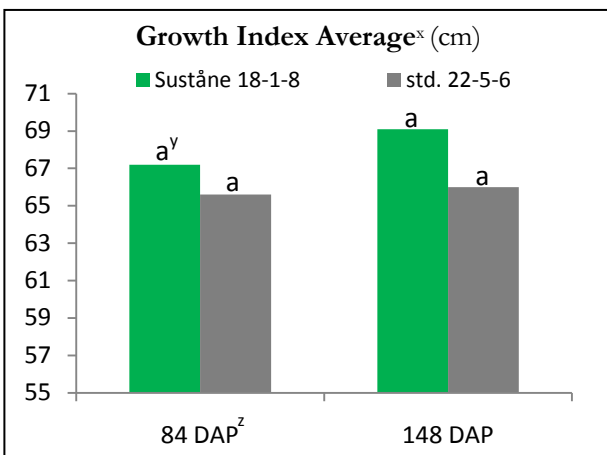
Many growers depend on a maintenance nutrient supply accomplished by applying fertilizer as a topdress. Often the goal of this application is to extend feeding, for short intervals, beyond that supplied by original nutrient charge of a controlled release fertilizer incorporated in the potting substrate at planting. Sustane 18-1-8+Fe (90 day) provides growers with a safe and economical fertilizer to accomplish their goals. The objective of this trial was to evaluate plant performance of Japanese Holly when top dressed with Sustane 18-1-8+Fe (90 day) compared to a standard 22-5-6 (4-5 mo.) top dress fertilizer. Mature 3-gallon Japanese Holly shrubs were used for the trial and fertilizer applications were applied at 10.3 g of nitrogen per 3-gallon container. Plant performance was evaluated over 148 days.

Japanese Holly 115 days after planting, summer 2009, Rydal, GA.



**Sustane
18-1-8+Fe
(90day)**

**Standard
22-5-6
(4-5 mo.)**



^x calculated as the sum of plant-width1, -width2 and -height divided by 3

^y means within a measurement date followed by different letters indicates significant differences, according to SNK ($\alpha=0.05$)

^zDAP corresponds to days after planting

Results: At each date measured quality rating was equal for both fertilizers tested. At trial completion fresh weights were equal for both of the fertilizers tested, 939.7 and 949.2 grams for Sustane 18-1-8+Fe and standard 22-5-6 (4-5 mo.), respectively. Root Quality was also equal for both fertilizers tested at 148 days after planting.

Conclusions: Sustane 18-1-8+Fe (90 day) is a safe and economical fertilizer for growers who wish to provide maintenance nutrition for topdressing container nursery stock. And performs equal to industry standard 22-5-6 (4-5 mo.) topdress fertilizer. Sustane 18-1-8+Fe (90 day) should only be used as a topdress application.