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*Hedera helix and Hedera hibernica*

**WA – Class C Noxious Weed**

**OR – Class B Noxious Weed**

# English Ivy

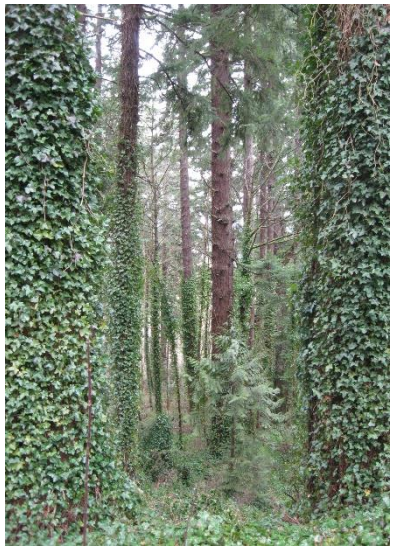
Atlantic Ivy

**Family:** Araliaceae

**Origins:** Native to Europe and Asia. It was first brought to the United States in the 1800s as an ornamental plant.

**Range:** In the United States, English Ivy is widespread, but is primarily a problem in the coastal regions. It is heavily distributed west of the Cascade Mountains in Washington and Oregon.

**Habitat:** Commonly grows in riparian corridors, woodlands, forest margins, coastal habitats, and disturbed sites. It can grow in full sun or shade.



**Impact:** Spreads aggressively, forming a dense groundcover that outcompetes native vegetation. Plants can grow on top of desirable vegetation and climb up trees, killing them by shading them out. Trees covered in English Ivy are more susceptible to disease, rot problems, and wind damage. English Ivy reproduces both by seed and by advantageous roots. One plant can produce tens of thousands of fruits each year and can live for over 100 years.

**Description:** English Ivy is a woody evergreen perennial vine or shrub. In its juvenile form as a woody vine, the plant produces adventitious roots, that allow the plant to anchor to vertical surfaces and climb other types of vegetation. Adult branches form a shrub structure by extending away from the juvenile form's support, halting the production of adventitious roots.

On juvenile plants, leaves have 3 to 5 deep lobes and are up to 4 inches long and wide. Mature flowering stems have primarily un-lobed leaves that are ovate to rhombic (bottom image). Young shoots and leaves are hairy, while older shoots and leaves are glabrous. English Ivy only matures to produce flowers when it begins to grow vertically. The small bisexual, greenish-white flowers occur in umbrella-like clusters in the fall. Fruits are berry-like, dark blue to black, and mature in the spring.

**Common Look-Alikes:** English Ivy as a species includes over 400 different cultivars, which vary in leaf size, shape, and color.

* *Plant leaves and berries are toxic to humans and cattle when ingested in large quantities. English Ivy sap can cause contact dermatitis for sensitive individuals.*

## Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the combined use of various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. See the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide for more information or contact your local Noxious Control Weed Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

*Continued…*

## Non-Herbicide Control

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| **Mechanical** (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.) | Hand pulling groundcover alone is not effective and must be repeated over multiple years to control resprouting. Vegetation must be completely removed from the ground to avoid re-rooting, and all runners must be pulled out.<br>Mowing or cutting is not recommended because stem fragments can resprout and re-establish, but when followed immediately by an herbicide application, this may help reduce plants. Repeated combination of mowing and herbicide application is successful. |
| **Cultural** | Prescribed burning and use of ground fabric/plastic cover is not effective since the roots are not damaged. Planting native vegetation after English Ivy has been removed may help prevent re-establishment of infestations. Do not introduce this plant to your garden. |
| **Biological** | Biological agents are currently not available for English Ivy in Washington State. |

## Herbicide Control: Cut Stem Treatment

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| **Glyphosate** (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup) | **Timing:** Anytime post-emergence; best results in the fall and winter.<br>**Remarks**: Cut each vine stem close to the ground and immediately apply herbicide to cut stems for effective uptake; use a 33% solution; Glyphosate is nonselective; it injures or kills any vegetation it contacts; do not apply near water. |
| **Triclopyr Amine** (Garlon 3A, Bush-B-Gone) | **Timing:** Anytime post-emergence; best results in the fall and winter.<br>**Remarks:** Cut each vine stem close to the ground and immediately apply herbicide to cut stems for effective uptake; use a 33% solution; Garlon products are registered for range & pastures, non-crop areas, rights-of-way, industrial sites, and forestry sites; do not apply near water. |

## Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

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| **Triclopyr Ester** (Garlon 4) | **Timing:** Summer to fall.<br>**Remarks:** Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Garlon products are registered for range & pastures, non-crop areas, rights-of-way, industrial sites, and forestry sites; do not apply near water. |
| **Glyphosate** (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup) | **Timing:** Summer to fall.<br>**Remarks:** Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Glyphosate is nonselective, it injures or kills any vegetation it contacts; do not apply near water.<br>*Only some control will be achieved using Glyphosate as a foliar treatment. Repeat applications are necessary. Will harm trees and other vegetation.* |
| ***For best results*** | Add a surfactant to the herbicide mixture. |

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

Information for this control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.