



Ilex aquifolium

WA – Monitor List

English Holly

Common Holly, European Holly, Christmas Holly

Family: Aquifoliaceae

Origins: Native to Asia, Europe, and Northern Africa, it was first introduced to the Pacific Northwest as an ornamental in the 1800s. English Holly is commercially cultivated in Washington State for floral decorations.

Range: In Washington and Oregon, infestations are more dense west of the Cascades.



Habitat: Commonly found in forested areas, roadsides, and waste places. Grows in a wide range of soil, moisture, and light conditions, but prefers medium moisture and well-drained soils.

Impact: English Holly forms dense thickets that shade out and suppress native vegetation. It reproduces by seed and vegetatively from suckers and branches, which can root where they touch the ground. Birds contribute to the spread of English Holly seeds by eating the berries.

Description: English Holly is a slow-growing evergreen shrub or tree growing up to 50 feet tall. Plants may have a single trunk or may have several more bush-like stems. Leaves are dark green on the top and lighter green on the underside, thick, waxy, and can grow up to 5 inches long. Young leaves have 3 to 5 sharp spines on each side, while older, more mature leaves higher up on the plant do not have any spines.

Flowers are small, white, and sweet-smelling. Plants flower in mid-summer, and berries begin to ripen and turn a bright red in late fall and last through winter.

Common Look-Alikes: American Holly, Oregon Grape.

**All parts of the plant are toxic to humans, pets, and livestock. Ingestion may cause vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, and drowsiness.*

Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines 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. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

Non-Herbicide Control

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	When the ground is moist, small plants can be hand-pulled or dug, making sure to remove as much of the root system as possible. The area will need to be monitored for new growth. Repeat cutting of stems and any new regrowth will eventually kill the plant.
Cultural	Do not introduce English Holly to your landscape.

Continued...

Biological	Biological agents are currently not available for English Holly in Washington State.
-------------------	--

Herbicide Control: Cut Stump Treatment

Glyphosate (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	Timing: Apply in fall or late spring. Remarks: Cut the trunk off at the base and immediately apply concentrated Glyphosate to the freshly cut surface; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Triclopyr Ester / Triclopyr Amine (Garlon 4 / Garlon 3A, Remedy)	Timing: Apply in fall or late spring. Remarks: Cut the trunk off at the base and immediately apply concentrated Triclopyr to the freshly cut surface; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Imazapyr (Imazapyr, Arsenal, Habitat)	Timing: Apply in fall or late spring. Remarks: Cut the trunk off at the base and immediately apply concentrated Imazapyr to the freshly cut surface; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.

Herbicide Control: Frill Treatment

Glyphosate (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	Timing: Apply in fall or late spring. Remarks: Use a hatchet, machete, or chainsaw to cut downward at a 45-degree angle around the trunk. A simple guideline for the number of hacks is one per 3 inches of diameter, with a minimum of two. It is essential to space the cuts, leaving intact bark between them. If the stem is completely girdled, the herbicide cannot translocate to the roots; spray concentrated herbicide solution into hacks immediately using a squirt bottle, filling the cuts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Triclopyr Ester / Triclopyr Amine (Garlon 4 / Garlon 3A, Remedy)	Timing: Apply in fall or late spring. Remarks: Use a hatchet, machete, or chainsaw to cut downward at a 45-degree angle around the trunk. A simple guideline for the number of hacks is one per 3 inches of diameter, with a minimum of two. It is essential to space the cuts, leaving intact bark between them. If the stem is completely girdled, the herbicide cannot translocate to the roots; apply 1 ml of 50% to 100% concentrated herbicide solution into hacks immediately using a squirt bottle, filling the cuts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.
Imazapyr (Imazapyr, Arsenal, Habitat)	Timing: Apply in fall or late spring. Remarks: Use a hatchet, machete, or chainsaw to cut downward at a 45-degree angle around the trunk. A simple guideline for the number of hacks is one per 3 inches of diameter, with a minimum of two. It is essential to space the cuts, leaving intact bark between them. If the stem is completely girdled, the herbicide cannot translocate to the roots; apply 1 ml of 50% concentrated herbicide solution into hacks immediately using a squirt bottle, filling the cuts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.

Herbicide Control: Ask our program about Injection and Basal Bark Treatments

* 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.**

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