



Photo: Jon Wagner, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

## Other Control Methods

Use herbicide control methods only for large infestations where manual and mechanical removal becomes impractical. For any herbicide applications we urge you to work with a licensed herbicide applicator. To learn more, consult the best management practices provided by the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area ([www.4countycwma.org/AWeeds/Best-Management-Practices/](http://www.4countycwma.org/AWeeds/Best-Management-Practices/)). If any information provided contradicts the label, the label takes precedence. Always read and follow the label on any herbicide product you are using!

Please contact your local weed program in either Oregon ([www.Oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/CountyWeedPrograms.aspx](http://www.Oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/CountyWeedPrograms.aspx)) or Washington ([www.NWCB.wa.gov/Find-Your-County-Weed-Boards](http://www.NWCB.wa.gov/Find-Your-County-Weed-Boards)) for more information about how to control this invasive weed.



The mission of the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, comprising Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, is to create and support collaborative weed management in the greater Portland area. For more details on our collaborative efforts in management, mapping, and outreach, please visit our website:

[www.4CountyCWMA.org](http://www.4CountyCWMA.org)



## ENGLISH AND IRISH IVY (*Hedera helix*, *Hedera hibernica*)

4-County CWMA Class C  
Oregon Class B  
Washington Class C



Photo: Jan Samanek, Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org

## Overview

English and Irish ivy are native to Europe and western Asia. Since these ivies thrive in moist, shaded environments, they have grown to take over and crowd out many native plants in Pacific Northwest forests. Trees covered with ivy can become unhealthy and even topple from the weight of the vines. The invasive nature of these plants resulted in the Oregon Department of Agriculture prohibiting their sale and production as of June of 2010. Oregon and Washington State have classified these ivies as noxious weeds.

## How to Identify

Invasive ivies are trailing evergreen vines that can also climb structures vertically. **Glossy dark green leaves** grow alternately on stems and generally have light green veins. Leaf size and shape vary among varieties from small, tightly lobed leaves to star shaped and pointed leaves to broad, non-lobed leaves. Some varieties have white or yellow variegations. Most growth lacks flowers unless vines are in full sun. **Small yellow-green flowers** appear in the fall, followed by **dark purple-black, berry-like fruits**.

## Look-alikes

There are several variants of English and Irish ivy, all of which are similar looking and invasive. There are no similar native plants in western Oregon or Washington.

## When to Remove

Ivy is easiest to remove when soil is moist and soft, late fall to spring. When removing ivy from a potentially unstable slope, it may be best to consider alternatives to manual control to avoid erosion or landslides.

## Manual Control Method

### THIS METHOD SHOULD BE USED WHEN:

- Terrain is flat or gently sloped
- Invasion may be near surface water
- Soil is moist
- There are desired plants in or around invasion

### TOOLS YOU NEED:

- Gloves
- Loppers/hand pruners/saws
- Shovels, claw-mattocks or pulaskis
- Tarps or large cardboard sheets

1. **PREPARE** an area to pile the removed ivy where it will not be in contact with soil. Bare ground, covered by at least two layers of cardboard, is a good place to pile English ivy. Ivy can also be placed on a large pile of fallen branches or cut blackberry canes to avoid contact with the soil. To prevent vines from re-rooting, move or flip the pile every few months.
2. Removal from trees should be the first priority. If ivy is growing up a tree, **CUT** all ivy vines at waist or shoulder height. **PRY** and **REMOVE** all trunk ivy from below the cut. The upper vines will die within a couple months and eventually disintegrate. Do not pull upper vines from the tree as it can do further harm to the tree. Next, remove at least a 5-10 ft ring of ivy around base of trees to prevent regrowth up the trunk.
3. If ivy is on the ground, **PULL** ivy out from the soil. Pull carefully so as to remove the roots and prevent breakage. If encountering very large roots, use a shovel or claw-mattock to loosen soil and pry roots out of the ground. When removing ivy from the ground, areas near the base of trees should be given priority.



Photo of ivy after cutting: Jon Wagner, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District



Photo: Jan Samanek, Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org



Photo: Aaron Guffy, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

4. **ROLL** or **BALL** up ivy around itself to create manageable sized balls. This helps to reduce re-rooting. If invasion is dense and carpet-like, and there are few obstacles or desirable species present, then consider the **Sushi-Roll** method: Line people up, kneeling, along the edge or cut and begin pulling the ivy down-slope, ensuring the ivy is being removed evenly across the edge. As ivy is removed, roll it into itself. The rolled material will begin to look like a sushi roll or a burrito.
5. **PILE** in designated area as described in step 1 to prevent new and recurring invasions.
6. **PLANT** native plants in the area that is being controlled after the bulk of the invasive plants are removed. This will help repopulate the area with desired species and help prevent new and recurring invasions.
7. **MONITOR** the site. It is crucial to come back every 6-12 months to reassess the area and to pull regrowth. With proper monitoring, reinfestation can be effectively prevented.



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