English Ivy Facts

A woody, evergreen vine with lobed dark green leaves that have lighter green veins. Umbrella-like clusters of small, greenish-white flowers appear in fall on plants that are climbing.

Fruits are blue or black and are eaten and spread by non-native European starlings.

The stems produce roots that allow it to cling to walls and trees, which can cause trees to topple from the weight of the vines.

English Ivy is a widespread pest of the Pacific Northwest, where it has been introduced as an ornamental.

This aggressive plant threatens wildlife habitat by creating a solid canopy of vegetation that shades out native flora and even kills the trees it climbs.

Keep ivy out of trees because it can negatively affect tree growth and make them susceptible to disease!

For More Information

Herbicide Recommendations
uspest.org/pnw/weeds/

Biocontrol
www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/biocontrolprogram.shtml

Weed Biology
ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/19802/ec1595-e.pdf

OR Dept. of Ag Noxious Weed Control
www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/index.shtml

The Benton Soil and Water Conservation District is a non-regulatory agency whose mission is to engage Benton County residents in the conservation and stewardship of natural resources for current and future generations.

Are you interested in restoration? Do you have weeds or other natural resource concerns? Call us or see our website for assistance!

Photos and info courtesy of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (Glenn Miller), Marion SWCD, and Annette Higinbotham.

The Benton Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer, providing services to the public without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

Original design created by the Yamhill SWCD.
**Chemical Control**

Always follow label instructions and take precautions to avoid drift when using chemical means of control.

Spraying can be done during the growing season and is more effective on cut stems or young leaves.

Using a surfactant is important because ivy has a thick waxy layer on the leaves that repels spray.

Instead of spraying the leaves, cut the vines and apply herbicides only to the cut stump.

You will not notice effects for weeks or possibly months, so be patient!

Consult your local Extension Agent or Oregon Department of Agriculture representative for specifics.

---

**Manual Control**

Pulling is best done when the soil is moist; be sure to pull the entire vine and roots.

Some people are sensitive to ivy sap and may develop a rash. Gloves should be worn as a precaution.

If ivy is climbing into a tree, cut the vines at chest height, then work your way out from the tree pulling and rolling the ivy. Once the vine is cut, pull the ivy out at least six feet around the tree base.

Periodically revisit the site to maintain a clear area around each tree. This prevents the ivy from climbing and producing seed.

Ivy can be piled and disposed of at a later time. Roots left in the soil will re-sprout and continue to grow, so follow up is important.

Remove ivy before it produces seeds (before the leaves mature and change to heart-shape).

---

**Biological Control**

Unfortunately there are no approved biocontrol agents for English ivy in the State of Oregon.

Goats love ivy and can be used to clear areas before pulling out the roots.

Cut ivy away from trees and apply foliar herbicide treatment to leaves on the ground.

Cut ivy trunks back to ground and paint or spot spray them with herbicide.

Using rakes and shovels, vines can be pulled and rolled down a slope like a carpet.

---

**For more recommendations on herbicide use please visit uspest.org/pnw/weeds/**