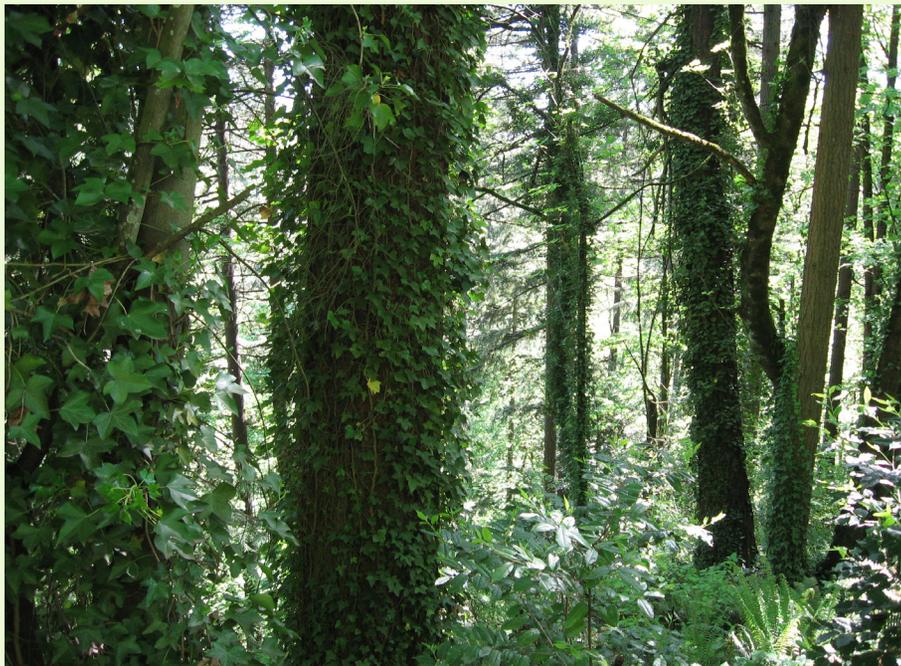


## Other Control Methods

Chemical methods should only be utilized if you feel that your infestation of ivy is too large or difficult to remove by hand and with basic tools. Please visit [4countycwma.org](http://4countycwma.org) or refer to Metro's Grow Smart Grow Safe guide ([www.lhwmp.org/home/gsgs](http://www.lhwmp.org/home/gsgs)) for more control recommendations.



Ivy infestation. Photo: Nate Woodard

## A Word of Caution

For any herbicide applications we urge you to work with a licensed herbicide applicator and refer to Metro's Grow Smart Grow Safe guide ([www.lhwmp.org/home/gsgs](http://www.lhwmp.org/home/gsgs)), or contact your county noxious weed coordinator. Always read and follow the label on any chemical product you are using!



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  
OR Class B  
Noxious Weed  
WA Class C



Photo: City of Portland BES

## 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 will likely become unhealthy and often topple from the weight of the vines. These ivies are spread vegetatively and through seed dispersal by birds eating the berries.

The invasive nature of these plants resulted in the Oregon Department of Agriculture banning their sale and purchase as of June of 2010. Oregon and Washington State have classified these species as noxious weeds.

## How to Identify

English ivy is a trailing evergreen vine 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, heart-shaped leaves. Some cultivars have white or yellow variegations.

Most growth lacks flowers unless vines are climbing. Small yellow-green flowers generally appear in the fall, followed by dark purple-black, berry-like fruits.

## Lookalikes

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There are several different cultivars of English and Irish ivy, all of which are similar looking and invasive. There are no look-alike native plants in western Oregon or Washington.

## When to Remove

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Ivy is most easily removed when soil is moist and soft, late fall - spring. When removing ivy from a potentially erosive slope, it may be best to consider alternatives to manual control to avoid erosion or slope collapse.



Ivy berries. Photo: Mike Jones



Left: Ivy berries/Right: Ivy infestation. Photos: Nate Woodard

## Basic Manual Control Methods

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### TOOLS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- Gloves
- Loppers/Hand pruners/Saws
- Shovels, claw-mattocks, or pulaskis
- Tarps or large cardboard sheets

PREPARE an area to heap the ivy being removed 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 ivy. Ivy can also be placed on a large pile of fallen branches to avoid contact with the soil. To prevent vines from re-rooting, move or flip the pile every few months.

Removal from trees should be 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.

If ivy is on the ground, PULL ivy out from the soil. Pull carefully so as to remove the roots and to 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.

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 of infestation. 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.

PILE in designated area as described in the first step.

PLANT native plants in the area that is being controlled after the bulk of the invasive plants are removed. This will help to repopulate the area with desired species and help prevent new and recurring invasions.

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.