

English ivy

Botanical name: *Hedera helix*

Common names: English ivy

Origin: Europe, North Africa, Asia



How it spreads

English ivy berries reproduce by seed and are spread by birds and other animals into gardens.

The stems take root easily and will grow and spread from small pieces.

How to identify

- Woody, perennial, evergreen climber growing to 30m, or creeper, forming dense coverings on the ground.
 - Large green sword-shaped leaves, smooth, shiny and darker above, paler beneath.
- Small green-yellow flowers in autumn.
 - Black fruit follows flowers.

Environmental impact

- A mature ivy vine will eventually kill its support tree by smothering – preventing photosynthesis, or preventing bark shedding, causing it to collapse.

Flowers and sets seeds which may be spread by birds.

- Ivy leaves and seeds are poisonous if swallowed and can cause dermatitis. Flower pollen can irritate eyes and trigger hay fever and asthma.

How to control English ivy



Removal by hand

Climbing infestations of English ivy must be removed first, as these will flower and set seed as they grow up a host tree and reach more light. This involves cutting the stem at the base of host tree and poisoning roots.

Stems trailing along the ground can be manually removed. Ensure all pieces that may break away are disposed of safely. Cleared areas must be monitored for the next two years. If the root system cannot be adequately removed, the bark must be stripped back for at least 20cm and the exposed area painted with herbicide.

Replacement planting



Running postman

Running postman (*Kennedia prostrata*) is an appropriate replacement plant for English ivy.

For more information on indigenous plants or for a list of indigenous plant nurseries please contact Council.

Cardinia Shire Council offers a subsidy to landowners who undertake a farm chemical users course.

Please contact Council for more information on 1300 787 624.

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Chemical control

Cut ivy stems at the base and paint with a registered glyphosate-based product.

Treatments are most effective when herbicide is applied to new growth. Always use surfactant with the herbicide as leaves have a waxy surface and do not readily absorb chemicals.

Search the PUBCRIS database for registered products at www.apvma.gov.au. Alternatively, use a licensed herbicide contractor.

Read the label of any chemical before use and ensure that you follow the manufacturer's instructions.



Disposal

Ensure ivy is completely dry prior to composting, mulching or disposal in Council's green waste bin.