



English ivy (Uwe Fries)



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\*\*\*\*\*NOXIOUS WEED ALERT\*\*\*\*\*

## English Ivy

For nearly as long as Europeans have been in North America, English ivy (*Hedera helix*) has also been present. Unfortunately, it quickly escaped cultivation in western Oregon and has had dramatic impacts on our forests and natural areas that seem to provide the perfect habitat for the aggressive, creeping climber.

### Why is it a problem?

Like many ivies, English ivy is extremely shade tolerant. The forests of western Oregon provide a greenhouse-like environment for English ivy to explode, and it does, robbing water and sunlight from native plants.

English ivy can create monocultures on the forest floor. These monocultures modify the habitat composition and stratification, pushing out native flora and fauna that are crucial to the ecosystem services provided by the landscape.

As plants mature and grow, they require even more resources and begin to search for sunlight by climbing trees. Eventually the ivy reaches the canopy. Now competing for resources at every level, even the mighty trees are eventually no match for the stress of an ivy invasion. Mid-canopy and understory habitats are further modified as these canopy infestations reduce solar exposure.

### What Can You Do?

Manual removal is typically the most successful approach, however, it can be very time consuming and costly. Ivy on trees should be cut at least 6 feet up from ground level when doing overstory control.

English ivy has a very waxy coating on the leaves, hindering herbicide application. That said, a combination of manual, mechanical and chemical controls can be very effective when timed properly. Be careful, as the ivy will often be intertwined with desirable native vegetation. ALWAYS follow the label.

For more Best Management Practices, please check out these resources:

[OSU EXTENSION- English Ivy Forum](#)

The Western Invasives Network is asking for your help in identifying populations of English Ivy in Oregon.

### How Do I Report English Ivy?

Report Online at:

<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>

-or-

Contact [your local CWMA](#)



English ivy has taken over this understory in Clackamas County. Soon, this infestation will rise high into the canopy. (Photo: Thaddeus Niebel)



A mature English Ivy in full fruit. The seeds in these berries are readily dispersed by small animals and birds. (Photo: Jenny Meisel)