

COMMON/ENGLISH HOLLY

IDENTIFICATION

An evergreen woody shrub with waxy, sharp, lobed leaves. Small, white flowers with four petals in spring. Produces bright red berries in winter. Can grow up to 30' tall.

This weed can grow under a shaded canopy, making it problematic for forest ecosystems. It spreads vegetatively and through seeds which are often eaten by birds.

CONTROL

Manual: Young plants can be pulled or dug up, removing roots. This is easiest in moist soils. Larger plants may be removed with a Weed Wrench or similar tool. Cut plants will resprout from the stump. Remove berries from plants to limit their propagation.

Mechanical: Use heavy equipment to remove plants from ground, ensuring root system is removed. Consistent cutting of regrowth can suppress holly but will not kill the plant. Do not leave root material or leaves on ground or they may resprout.

Chemical: Follow all label directions! Foliar applications are typically not effective due to the waxy leaves. A targeted application onto the freshly cut stump or injected into the trunk is effective without damaging nearby vegetation. Monitor treated areas for new growth and remove as needed.

FURTHER INFO

For further reading on control methods for blackberry, see:

[Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board](#)
[Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks](#)
[WISC - Washington Invasive Species Council](#)

