

ENGLISH IVY

IDENTIFICATION

An evergreen, woody vine with dark green leaves that are waxy, leathery, and have light veins. Juvenile leaves are lobed with 3-5 points, and mature leaves are ovate or diamond-shaped. Vines climb trees and walls using aerial rootlets, where they can smother trees, adding additional weight and causing trees to fall in storms. Ivy forms dense mats on the ground, choking out native vegetation and reducing habitat. Roots and leaves left on the ground will resprout.

CONTROL

Manual: Plants on the ground can be pulled or dug up, removing roots. This is easiest in moist soils. For climbing ivy vines, separate vines from their roots in the ground. Use the “ring of life” method, cutting all vines around the tree at least 4 feet up. Then clear 3 feet of ground around the tree. Vines in the tree will die.

Cultural: Apply at least 8 inches of mulch to the area. Layer the ground with cardboard or landscaping fabric first to increase effectiveness. Must cover all plants and leave in place for 2 years.

Chemical: Follow all label directions! Herbicide applications are effective on young plants. Do not spray ivy that is climbing trees or other plants. Spray in fall or winter when native plants are dormant.

FURTHER INFO

For further reading on control methods for blackberry, see:

[WISC - Washington Invasive Species Council](#)
[PNW Weed Management Handbook](#)
[WA State Noxious Weed Control Board](#)

