

WEED WATCH

English Ivy



Weed Watch is part of the district's effort to raise awareness about noxious weeds and their impact on natural resources and the local economy. For more information about English ivy and other invasive weeds visit www.yamhillswcd.org/weeds.

Description

English ivy is an evergreen perennial climbing vine that attaches to bark of trees, brickwork and other surfaces by root-like structures that exude a glue-like substance to aid in adherence.

Leaves: Alternate, dark green, waxy, somewhat leathery; extremely variable leaf forms, from unlobed to 3-5 lobed; typically green with whitish veins.

Manual Controls

English ivy is an important plant to control and can be effectively controlled by chemical and manual methods. It invades forests, woodlands, and riparian areas. Especially keep ivy out of the trees because it can negatively affect tree growth and make them susceptible to disease!

English ivy can be controlled by cutting and pulling. Plants should be pulled when the soil is wet. Be sure to pull the entire vine. When plants are climbing trees you may need to use a pair of clippers or even a chain saw to cut the vine at the base of trees. Once the vine is cut pull the ivy out at least six feet around the tree base and remove all pulled vines from site. Periodically revisit the site to maintain a clear area around each tree. This prevents the ivy from climbing and producing seed.

Biological Control

There are no approved biocontrol agents for English ivy in the State of Oregon.

Suggestions for Integrated Pest Management Options

Cut ivy away from trees and apply foliar herbicide treatment to leaves on the ground. According to the Pacific NW Weed Handbook, cut stem applications are effective using a 33% mixture of glyphosate mixed in water.

Goats love ivy and can be used to clear areas before pulling out the roots. However they may eat non-targeted plants and therefore should be well supervised.

Chemical

Always read and follow label instructions and take precautions to avoid drift when using chemical means of control. Spraying can be done year round as long as the temperature is above 55 and below 85 degrees. If possible, apply during dry periods in late winter or early spring before native plants leaf out or emerge.

The leaves on English ivy have a waxy coating. This makes the plant resistant to herbicide application. Using a surfactant increases the herbicides effectiveness by cutting through the waxy surface of the leaf. You can find more information regarding herbicide products at <http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/>.

Contact Information

Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District
503-472-6403 or www.yamhillswcd.org/weeds

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