

# ENGLISH IVY

*Hedera helix*



English Ivy is an aggressive invasive plant species that quickly spreads into large areas, often smothering and destroying native trees and groundcovers. A trailing evergreen vine, it has dull green lobed leaves and lacks flowers. It consumes all the good nutrients in the soil and blocks out the sun. It is known to cause wildfires to spread.

## HOW TO REMOVE:

- Wear proper clothing. It is important to cover up before removing English Ivy, though nothing like Poison Ivy, it can cause skin irritation. Durable gloves, long sleeves, long pants and proper shoes are recommended.
- Make sure not to pull on ivy that is above you on a tree – bee and/or bird nests may be hidden within and removing the higher ivy may cause further damage to an already stressed tree.
- At a height of about 91 cm to 1.5 m (3-5ft), cut the ivy around the tree with shears and using a flat screwdriver gently pull off to remove the lower part. The upper part that is left behind should eventually die off.
- Remove the ivy from the base of the tree trunk back about 1.8 m (6ft).
- Place in heavy trash bags and store in a dark place until completely dried and dead then add to yard waste or place in heavy trash bags for transportation to a proper green waste disposal facility. **DO NOT COMPOST** fresh cut green plants or roots. Disposal facilities: Salish Soils, Pender Harbour Transfer Station, Gibson's Residential Green Waste Drop off Site.
- Alternative plants: Creeping Raspberry, Deer Fern, Privet Honeysuckle, Purple Wintercreeper.
- Additional info: <http://bcinvasives.ca/invasive-species/identify/invasive-plants/english-ivy>



[www.penderharbourwildlife.com](http://www.penderharbourwildlife.com)

