



Control Options for English Ivy

General Information

English ivy is a climbing ornamental which can invade forested areas, the seeds often being spread by birds. Due to the waxy leaves, rapid growth and growth habit, ivy can be difficult to control by both manual and chemical means.

Manual/Mechanical Techniques

Small infestations can be controlled through hand removal. Gloves and long sleeves should be worn, as the sap can cause skin irritation in some people. Vines on the ground can be pulled by hand. Vines growing up trees should be cut at the ground and again at 3 or 4 feet above ground level. Ensure all vines are cut (some may adhere tightly to the tree bark). Once cut, the portion of the vine higher in the tree can be left there, and will eventually die. Cut and pulled stem pieces should be disposed of in a way that prevents them from re-rooting anywhere.



Chemical Recommendations

English ivy can be managed using specific herbicides. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. If spraying is the chosen option, spray late in the evening to reduce the direct impact on pollinating insects. Do not spray when it is windy or raining, or when rain is forecast. Do not cut sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.

For foliar herbicide applications, a surfactant should be used to ensure better absorption of the herbicide into the waxy leaves. **Glyphosate** (RoundUp® and many other brands – must use a formulation with at least 41% active ingredient) or **Triclopyr** (marketed in many brush control herbicides) can both be used for ivy control. Glyphosate can be used as a foliar spray at 2-4% and is most effective on new growth and regrowth after mowing or string trimming. Leaves are less waxy at this stage and can absorb herbicides more effectively. Triclopyr can be used at a rate of 2-5% for foliar spray. Watch for regrowth and re-apply if needed. For basal bark application, apply a 33% solution of triclopyr or glyphosate to exposed stems after stripping the leaves off the stems near ground level. For cut stem treatment, apply herbicide on the cut stem immediately after cutting; refer to herbicide label for herbicide solution concentration. Avoid spraying desired vegetation, as these herbicides can damage other plants.

NEVER apply RoundUp® or other herbicides to standing water unless they are distinctly labeled for aquatic use. Ingredients in non-aquatic products may be toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. Aquatic formulations of herbicides are generally only available to licensed pesticide applicators in Washington State. If the target plants are immediately adjacent to or are in standing water, a state permit may be required in order to treat those plants with an aquatically approved herbicide.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. Herbicide information is taken from the WSU Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook and Clemson University Cooperative Extension.