

# Early Detection Rapid Response

## Invasive Plant Fact Sheet:

### English Ivy



**Figure 1:**



**Figure 2:**



**Figure 3:**

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# \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ n evergreen vine with alternate branching leaves. Leaf shape varies from deeply-lobed juvenile (Figure 1) to rounded, ovate when mature (Figure 2.) Juvenile leaves have 3-5 lobes, dull green with light colored veins. Mature leaves tend to be more shiny with white veins. When the vines grow on vertical surfaces such as trees and walls, the vine will flower and fruit. The flowers are white to green and the fruit is round and black.

### **Treatment options**

The \_\_\_\_\_ English ivy is often a multi-season process that requires \_\_\_\_\_ Care should be taken not to leave exposed soils after removal. In instances where the soil is exposed, be sure to take action to mitigate any potential erosion.

U \_\_\_\_\_ Manual removal is the preferred method for controlling English ivy. The best time to remove ivy is in the spring or fall when the soil is moist. It is recommended to wear gloves and protective clothing when removing ivy as the sap can cause reactions for some people. Vines can be pulled \_\_\_\_\_ by hand and a shovel can be used to dig out roots if needed. Often in healthy non-compacted soils, the ivy can almost be rolled up by hand and tools are not required.

If English ivy has grown into the tree canopy, girdle the vines by cutting and removing a section of the vines approximately two feet from the ground up. Although there is a desire to pull the vines out of the trees, the risk of pulling down a branch harming both the land steward and the tree is high.

It is important to remember that the vines of English ivy will self-root if left on the soil and care should be taken to properly dispose of ivy vines. Vines should not be composted, or left in contact with soil. One method to dispose of the vines is to build a makeshift pallet using downed tree branches and logs to elevate the debris, and allows them to dry out.



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#### Treatment options (continued)

##### Smothering:

In areas where English ivy is the dominant ground cover, smothering the plants to deprive them of the resources they need to survive may be advisable. To accomplish this, cut the plants down by using a mower or string trimmer and then place cardboard on top of the treatment area. Cardboard should overlap on edges by at least 8 inches. After the application of the cardboard, cover the cardboard with no less than 8 inches of coarse mulch. Be sure to monitor for regrowth or re-sprouts of ivy. The treatment area should remain fully covered by mulch and cardboard for at least two years before replanting efforts begin.

##### Chemical:

For larger established patches of English ivy, an integrated vegetation management approach may be required. Often this can include the use of herbicides, and only licensed applicators should perform this management option. In some cases, Pure Water Partners can assist with the management of English ivy in riparian and other sensitive areas.

*This innovative program relies on voluntary participation from community members like you. If you would like to join this critical effort, please visit our website to learn how you can become a Pure Water Partner.*

[www.purewaterpartners.org](http://www.purewaterpartners.org)