

The California Invasive Plant Council Student Chapter recommends that you

DON'T PLANT

ENGLISH/ALGERIAN IVY



Scientific Name: *Hedera helix* and *Hedera canariensis*

Other Common Names:

Description:

Woody evergreen vines commonly found in moist, shady woodland areas. Ivy grows as a vine and groundcover for up to 10 years before flowering. English ivy leaves are alternate, dark green, and leathery. They usually have 3–5 lobes, white veins, and aerial rootlets that secrete a sticky substance, enabling ivy to climb up tree trunks.

Biology, Habitat, and Spread:

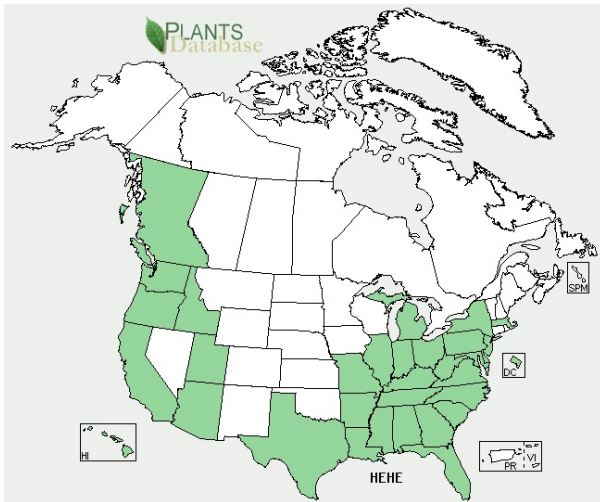
In mature plants, terminal clusters of small, yellowish-green, and inconspicuous flowers appear in fall; blue-black berries appear the following spring. English ivy spreads primarily by rhizomes, but it can also reproduce from seed. Seeds are disseminated by birds whose digestive tract scarifies the hard seed coat. English ivy out competes grasses, herbs and trees, leading to a reduction in animal feeding habitats.

Impact:

Ivy vines form dense carpets of vegetation that can cover native vegetation as well as open soil. This dense groundcover can deprive native plants of light and nutrients and reduce germination of the native seedbank. Eventually even large trees can be killed by ivy climbing into their canopies. Algerian ivy is considered more invasive than English ivy because it is rapidly invading relatively undisturbed forest understories. The leaves and berries are toxic.

Native Range: Europe

Invaded Range:



Control Methods:

Removing ivy can increase the potential for erosion on creek banks and slopes, so have an erosion control strategy in place prior to removal. Pull vines climbing into trees and along the ground by hand or with rakes and McLeods. Ivy can sometimes be rolled up like a carpet and piled or hauled off-site. Cut woody stems with pruners or loppers, and dig up the roots with a shovel to prevent resprouting. Pulled ivy roots left in contact with soil may reroot, and resprout if part of the root crown is left.

Alternatives:



Ivy geranium

Pelargonium peltatum

Glossy, bright green leaves with flowers in white, pink, rose, red, and lavender. Vigorous groundcover recommended for flat areas only, not suitable for erosion control.

Photo: David Graper



Ivory star jasmine

Trachelospermum spp.

Evergreen, vining groundcover up to 20' across. It has glossy, dark green leaves and pale yellow, pinwheel-shaped flowers with a jasmine scent.

Photo: www.aromaticas.es



Beach strawberry

Fragaria chiloensis

Forms lush compact mat 4"-6" high. Glossy dark green leaves, white flowers. Mow or cut back annually to force new growth.

Photo: Ken Gilliland

References:

Cal-IPC. 2008. California Invasive Plant Council: www.cal-ipc.org

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://plants.usda.gov>

Morisawa, T.L. 1999. The Nature Conservancy. Wildland Weeds Management and Research: <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>