

English Ivy Kills Trees



Why is English Ivy So Harmful?

- Ivy adds weight and sail area to the trees which causes limbs and trees to fall during high winds.
- Thick ivy stems can cause bark rot by holding moisture against the trunk and allowing fungal growth to invade the tree.
- Ivy shades and outcompetes understory plants and inhibits regeneration of the forest.
- Dense ivy growth can harbor mosquitoes and ticks.
- Ivy blocks sunlight from tree leaves as it reaches the canopy and competes for water and nutrients, further compromising the tree's health.
- Ivy matures as it climbs into the trees, producing purplish berries that birds spread to neighboring properties, widening the infestation.
- English ivy is a reservoir for bacterial leaf scorch—a disease that attacks maples, oaks and elms.

How to Remove English Ivy

Protect your trees, other landscaping and your home by cutting ivy off your trees. Follow these simple steps:

1. Clip the ivy all the way around the tree using pruners. Do this a few feet above the ground to cut off water and nutrients from reaching the vines up high.
2. Pull the stems from your cuts off the trunk to the ground without damaging the bark. Pull ivy roots out and away from the tree base to prevent regrowth. A screwdriver can help pry up the stems. Use a small saw on thick and woody stems.
3. Leave the ivy on the tree above the cuts to minimize damage to the bark. The ivy will die over the next few months and slowly drop off.



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