

Non-Native Invasive Plant Information

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

This infestation is currently being observed all over Marin County's neighborhoods, along waterways, on school campuses and growing up most trees.

Why Is It So Bad?

- *It harms the tree's health and increases the chance of it becoming hazardous, leading to property damage and/or creek bank failures.*
- *English Ivy spreads on the ground vegetatively, but once it grows upright on trees, it will flower and reproduce via seed.*
- *When it climbs up tree trunks, it suffocates tree growth and elevates the risk of trees blowing over in windstorms due to the increased density of tree canopy.*



Plant: English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Identification: An evergreen vine that acts as a groundcover or a vertically growing vine with dull, lobed leaves and light veins. Leaf shapes and sizes vary. If vertical, the vine will develop flowers which look like a whorled umbrella of yellow-green flowers in the fall followed by dark purple-black berries/seeds in late winter/early spring that spread the invasive further.

Removal: As a groundcover, the roots don't grow very deep making it is easy to remove. When removing it from trees, which should be a top priority, simply cut the vine at the base of the tree. Completely sever it, cutting out several inches so it cannot 'reconnect.' Residents can use loppers or in some cases when the vine is too thick, a pruning saw. Once the base of the vine has been severed on the tree trunk, leave the mass in the tree and it'll die back, providing organic leaf litter for increased soil conditioning. Place pulled vine vegetation in the TRASH can (NOT the green bin because the plant may resprout and spread in compost, thus infesting new areas).

PLEASE DO NOT SPRAY WITH HERBICIDE.

