



ENGLISH IVY REMOVAL STEPS



Focus on trunks.

If ivy is climbing a tree trunk, it's an invasive ivy (English, Atlantic/Boston, etc). Other ivy varieties in the Pacific Northwest usually do not climb tree trunks.

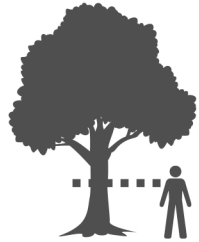
Check for hazards

Wear garden gloves to protect yourself from the gluey substance ivy exudes at its roots. Keep an eye and ear out for any ground-based hornet nests to avoid, especially in late summer when they're most aggressive. And be careful to step over or around any limbs and debris to access the tree.



Cut a survival ring.

Cut the climbing English ivy vines -- at waist-height or lower on the trunk, making a complete ring all the way around. Check for small vines hiding under moss or bark fragments. For thinner vines, a garden hand clipper/pruner will work fine. Use loppers (or a small hand saw) for any thicker vines.



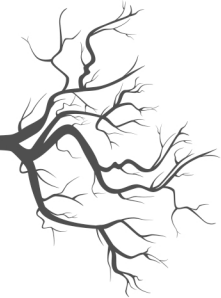
Peel down, not up.

Below the survival ring, gently peel down and remove vines from the tree if possible without damaging the tree's bark. Above the ring, you can leave the ivy alone. It will wither and fall off by itself over time.



Remove around the base.

If possible, remove ivy for a few feet on the ground around the tree's base. Or remove what you can and then re-visit at a later time. Sometimes you can remove lots of ground strands easily this way: grab a strand or two and pull upward and away from the tree. Dig up any remaining ivy roots, working gently to minimize damage to the tree's surface roots.



Dispose wisely.

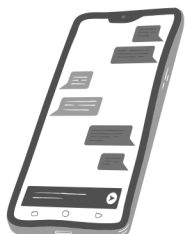
The best way depends on your situation...

(a) If you are removing ivy from a few trees or less, put the cuttings in your yard waste bin, if you have one. Otherwise do (b) or (c) below. Do NOT home compost the ivy -- the compost temps won't be high enough to neutralize it!



(b) If you are removing ivy from trees in a larger area that also has substantial English ivy on the ground which will not be removed anytime soon, clip the cut strand into smaller pieces (~1' long). Then "air-compost" by placing the cuttings on top of ground ivy (and/or small bushes) away from any tree. Most cuttings will decay and die quickly due to air exposure. A small amount may re-root, but it will not matter since it will be among other existing ground ivy.

(c) If you have MORE ivy cuttings than one curbside yard waste bin and NO ground ivy or bushes to air-compost on top of, consider spreading out the yard waste bin disposal over several pickup times. Or, leave your cuttings to dry out on top of a tarp or hardscape in your yard for several weeks and then toss into your yard waste when brown/withered.



Track & tell. Last but not least, let us know about your tree ivy removal success by contacting us, telling us how many trees you saved and where. Thanks!

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