

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

English ivy
Hedera helix

Other common names: Common ivy, branching ivy, glacier ivy, needlepoint ivy, sweetheart ivy, ivy

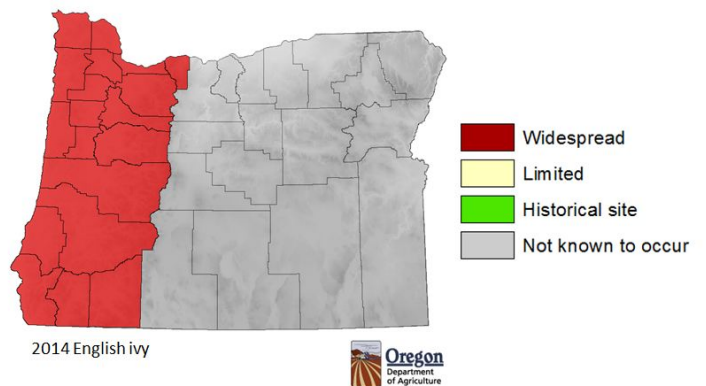
USDA symbol: HEHE
ODA rating: B



Distribution in Oregon: Widespread and considered very invasive west of the Cascades. English ivy can be found on the east side of Oregon as an ornamental but has yet to show invasive tendencies in the arid regions.

Introduction: English ivy was first introduced to the United States by European immigrants and has been widely sold as an ornamental plant for landscaping.

Description: A perennial, English ivy flowers when light and when nutrients optimum. It has woody, evergreen vine with long, trailing stems. The leaves are alternate and waxy. Juvenile leaves lobed, mature leaves larger and pointed with no lobes. Green or white flowers produce black berries.



Impacts: Rapid and massive vegetative growth of English ivy vines reaches to treetops and woody ornamentals. It also can displace native vegetation on the forest floor. English ivy frequently becomes intertwined with forest shrubs creating difficulties for manual removal or herbicide use. Removal costs in some Oregon parks have reached \$2000 per acre. Toxicity of this plant is considered low but a few scattered reports do exist. *Asaponic glycoside* is found in the leaves and berries. This is an uncommon poisoning, but incidents have been reported in dogs, cats, and pet monkeys, especially when the green berries were eaten.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents available.

