

... ENGLISH IVY IS DESTRUCTIVE!

hat's the big deal, you may be asking? English Ivy is all over the place. It starts out as a perky green ground cover and tree hugger in people's yards. It makes itself familiar in parks and along streams. Why, you may even have invited it onto your own property!

That's just the problem. English Ivy may look harmless, but in fact it's a big bully. Here's the lowdown:

English Ivy is an aggressive invader that does a criminal amount of damage.

SO WHAT'S THE CRIME?

- English Ivy overwhelms and dominates all landscaped and natural areas where it is allowed to become established. It takes over other plants and soon destroys them-including trees. Left unchecked, this green wave of destruction turns natural areas into "ivy wastelands" where nothing else lives.
- English Ivy makes lousy habitat for desirable wildlife, but provides a cozy haven for dirty rats and other vermin.
- Its shallow, matted root system increases the likelihood of erosion and slope failure.

Motive: Simply put, English Ivy wants to take over the land. It's strong, tough, and ruthless.

Means: English Ivy stakes out new territory through its roots, vines, and seeds. Like bad news, it spreads fast.

Opportunity: English Ivy relies on its looks and its reputation for being care free. It weasels its way into people's yards. This invader quickly spreads its deadly grip, claiming new victims wherever it goes.



Established
English Ivy
easily grows
into strong,
woody vines
exceeding
6" in diameter.

English Ivy is listed as a prohibited plant on the City's Portland Plant List.

THE USUAL SUSPECTS

English Ivy has two basic profiles. The immature, or juvenile, form is the familiar vine with pointy green leaves that grows on the ground or climbs a fence, wall, post, or tree. The plant may remain in this form for years.

The second form is when it matures and propagates. Then the leaves become rounder and the plant produces a small greenish-white flower (somewhat like mistletoe) and fleshy, purple-black berries. In either form, English Ivy is up to no good.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THIS GROWING MENACE?

- **1** Don't plant it.
- **2** Remove it from your property, especially from trees. For help to learn how, see information on the back of this brochure.
- Replace it. Check out native plants. They don't require special care and are great for our environment.
- Help remove it from our parks and greenspaces by volunteering with organized removal programs.

In 1999 alone, over 55,000 hours of labor (95 percent by volunteers) were spent to remove and control ivy in parks and open spaces in the Portland metropolitan area. The equivalent of at least \$600,000 in labor and tools.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PUBLIC ENEMY:

- Ivy Removal Project (the No Ivy League), headquartered at Forest Park: 503-823-3681 or www.noivyleague.com
- Friends of Tryon Creek State Park: 503-636-4398
- Naturescaping for Clean Rivers program (learn how to landscape with native plants through free workshops): 503-797-1842
- Check your local newspaper for ivy removal events
- See what's being done to remove ivy at your favorite park or greenspace

OTHER BAD GUYS!

English Ivy isn't the only gangster of the plant world. Be on the lookout for other invasive plants-such as Himalayan blackberry, Scotch Broom, English Holly, and Wild Clematis (Travelers Joy). They will also take over their environment, killing valued plants.