

“B” Rated Weeds

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

English ivy - *Hedera helix*
Atlantic ivy - *Hedera hibernica*

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

USDA symbol:
HEHE, HEHI 12
ODA rating: B



Introduction: English and Atlantic ivies were first introduced to the United States by European immigrants and have been widely sold as ornamental plants for landscaping. They originated from central Asia, not from Western Europe as the names suggest.

Distribution in Oregon: English and Atlantic ivy distribution is widespread on the western side of the Cascades where they are considered very invasive. English and Atlantic ivies can be found on the east side of Oregon as ornamentals, but have yet to show invasive tendencies in arid regions.

Description: Very robust perennials, English and Atlantic ivies produce thick, woody, evergreen vines on trees with smaller long, trailing stems on forest floors. The leaves are alternate and waxy. Juvenile leaves are lobed, mature leaves larger and pointed with no lobes. When light and nutrients are optimum as in forest canopies, green or white flowers are produced forming black berries that are relished by starlings and robins, their main dispersal agents.

Impacts: Rapid and massive vegetative growth of English and Atlantic ivy vines reaches the tops of trees and woody ornamentals. Ivies can also displace native vegetation on the forest floor. English and Atlantic ivies frequently become intertwined with forest shrubs creating difficulties for manual removal or herbicide use. Removal costs in some Oregon parks have reached \$3000 per acre.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents available.

