

*Hedera helix*



# Environmental Weed

[illegible]

# English Ivy

## *Hedera helix*

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#### FLOWERS:

Small, greenish-yellow and arranged in clusters (umbels) 3-5cm in diameter and very rich in nectar, produced from summer until late autumn.

#### LEAVES:

Dark green, waxy/leathery. Young leaves are five-lobed on creeping and climbing stems; when plant climbs up a support and produces fertile flowering stems exposed to full sun the adult leaves turn more diamond-shaped.

#### STEMS:

Stems are somewhat woody and produce short aerial roots that attach to supporting structures. Older stems are covered in a smooth light grey to brownish-coloured bark. Younger stems are hairless (i.e. glabrous) or slightly hairy (i.e. puberulent) and green to purplish or burgundy red in colour.

#### SEED:

A purple-black to orange-yellow berries 6-8mm in diameter, ripening in late winter. One to five seeds are in each berry.

#### LIFECYCLE:

Vigorous evergreen self-clinging climber growing to 20-30m. Climbs by means of aerial rootlets with matted pads which cling strongly to the substrate. Can reproduce vegetatively though stems that come into contact with the soil develop roots and can form into new plants (a process called layering). Stem segments that have been separated from the rest of the plant can also take root. Creeping underground stems (i.e. rhizomes) may also be produced.

#### CONTROL:

Non-chemical control: Hand pulling small juvenile plants.

Chemical control:

- Cut and paint,
- Scrape and paint

(ALL herbicides applications should be carried out as stated within the manufacturers guidelines and the current chemical Material Data Safety Sheets.)