

***Hedera Helix*, English Ivy**

General Botanical Characteristics

Hedera helix, is a widespread invasive species. It wipes out the growth of other native plant species in forest floors, riparian zones, and wetlands. It is a kind of vine that can grow massively on grounds including the understory of forests and garden yards. It can attach to trees, walls, and other kinds of surfaces with its rootlets. Leaves are dark green, and waxy with veins of whitish-green color. At juvenile stage, leaf form is 3-lobed. Leaf is un-lobed and oval with less prominent whitish-green veins during the adult stage.



Seasonal Development

In the fall, clusters of greenish-white flowers are produced during the adult stage when sunlight is sufficient. Fruits, which are mildly toxic, are produced in spring.

Distribution / Habitat

English Ivy is native to Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa. European immigrants introduced English ivy to the United States as an ornamental landscape plant. Currently, it is an abundant and widespread invasive plant in at least 26 states.

Interesting Facts

- It is widely used in commercial and residential projects since it is low-maintenance, provides a uniform groundcover appearance, and grows in harsh conditions.

References

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