

English Ivy

Your responsibilities as a property owner

English Ivy is aggressive and destructive to trees and vegetation in our backyards, roadsides and bushland. It is highly invasive and once established can eliminate most native plants and kill our trees.

Although English Ivy looks like a lovely, lush green plant, it can actually smother trees, accelerate rot, attract mosquitoes and cause weakened mature trees to fall down during storms.

Vines can climb as high as they can be supported and eventually strangle trees by blocking out sunlight, depriving the tree's bark of normal contact with air and light and restricting natural bark shed.

English ivy also competes with trees and surrounding plants for nutrients and water. Eventually, this deprives wildlife of habitat and food sources, and discourages native birds, butterflies and insects.

These methods also work well for other invasive climbers such as cape ivy.

Trees are a vital part of Nillumbik's urban and rural areas, providing habitat, shade and underpinning the character of Nillumbik and its natural ecosystems. Thank you for your support in tackling this invasive plant. Your trees will thank you for it.

More information

Contact us and ask to speak with a staff member from Environment.

More detailed information on removal techniques can be found on the website at <https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Environment/Natural-environment/Weeds-of-Nillumbik>

Removing English Ivy is easier than you think

1. Wear gloves
2. On smooth barked trees, cut the ivy vines at the base and around the entire trunk of the infested tree. The goal is to separate the ivy vines from the rooting stems. Leave the ivy vines to die back. Hand pull rooting stems or treat them with a suitable herbicide.
3. On rough barked trees, treat the ivy vines with a suitable herbicide using a drill and fill method or stem scraping method. Leave the ivy vines to die back. Hand pull rooting stems or treat them with a suitable herbicide.
4. Seedlings and small rooting stems can be hand pulled or dug out. This can be easily done after wet weather as the soil will be soft.
5. Dispose of any ivy safely in your green waste bin or at Council's Recycling and Recovery Center and monitor the area for regrowth.

