



# 5. English Ivy

*Hedera helix*

## What is English Ivy?

English Ivy is a climbing vine with hairless, dark green or green/ white leaves. It is an invasive weed which takes over areas and competes with native plants.

## Why is English Ivy a problem for NZ?

English Ivy can cling to and climb over almost any surface. It is a weed that started in New Zealand gardens, but spreads easily into the wider environment, taking over areas where native plants grow. This weed climbs over plants and trees to reach very high in the forest, smothering and even killing them.



## How do I know it's English Ivy?

Ivy's leaves feel papery and have different numbers of lobes (sections of the leaf). The lobes grow out from the centre of the leaf. As seedlings the leaves are thin but they become thicker as the plant grows bigger.

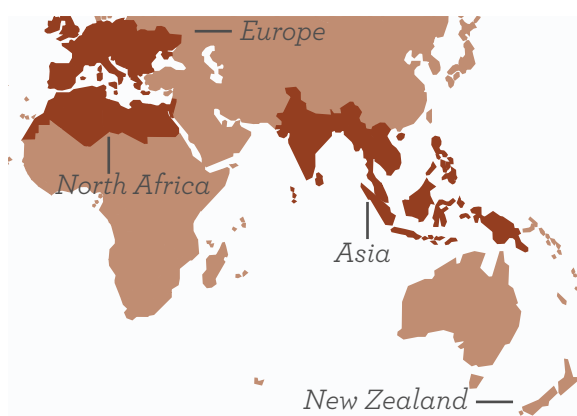
Flowers are tiny and difficult to see. They grow in groups and are yellowish-green. They become purple or black small berries.

## How does it spread?

This weed's seeds can be spread by birds. People plant ivy and sometimes dump it with other weeds in green spaces. This

causes most of the spread of English Ivy in New Zealand.

English Ivy comes from Europe, North Africa and parts of Asia.



For more detailed information about English Ivy and how to control its spread see: [weedbusters.org.nz](http://weedbusters.org.nz)