

**English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)**

**Family name:** Ginseng (Araliaceae)

**Native range:** Eurasia

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 - Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *moderately* to natural communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Perennial, climbing, evergreen vine or groundcover
- Climbs using small, sticky root-like structures
- Can smother shrubs and trees
- Older vines can grow to 1" in diameter

NOTE: English ivy serves as a reservoir for Bacterial Leaf Scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*), a pathogen that is harmful to elms, oaks, maples and other native plants.



**Flowers:**

- Small, pale yellow-green
- Borne on terminal clusters
- Blooms Aug-September
- Flowering triggered by sunlight (often requires climbing to flower)
- Vines may grow for up to 10 years before flowering



- Black to purple fruits
- Thin fleshy outer covering
- 1 to 3 hard seeds
- Ripening October-November



**Habitat:**

- Forest, edge, field, coastal area, garden
- Prefers drier sites
- Highly invasive in warmer climates

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, dark green with white veins
- Waxy or leathery
- No toothing on edges
- Usually 3 to 5 lobes per leaf- leaves may appear triangular
- Mature, flowering plants may have unlobed rounded or heart shaped leaves
- Many cultivars are available making leaf color variable- may be edged in white, reddish, or yellowish



Variegated leaf pattern of a cultivar

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*)**

- Highly **invasive** climbing vine or groundcover
- Deciduous- reddish fall color
- Leaves are bright, glossy green
- Toothed edge
- See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant



Boston ivy

**Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)**

- **Native** deciduous vine
- White berries
- Leaves in groups of 3, may have reddish tinge
- Hairy stems



Poison ivy