



Hedera canariensis and Hedera helix, commonly known as English Ivy or Ivy is a creeping and climbing invasive plant that poses a serious threat to the local environment.

Originally introduced to South Africa as a groundcover and ornamental climber, this flowering species from the Araliaceae family is native to Europe.

The Ivy is listed as a Category 3 invasive species under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) (Act 10 of 2004) regulations and must be managed accordingly. In sensitive or riparian areas, its status escalates to Category 1b, requiring control.



If left unmanaged, Ivy can cause trees to collapse, increase wind damage in open areas and displace local plants.

Help us tackle this invasive ground cover

The City is actively managing Ivy infestations in public spaces, but community awareness and action remain critical to ensuring successful control.

Remove Ivy safely at home:

Ivy is dormant during winter, and this period provides a good opportunity to control or remove the plant.



- Manually pull out the Ivy stems and roots. The stems can be removed from the ground of a standing tree. Upper vines can be left to rot since they will die if they are not rooted.
- Follow up regularly to remove any new growth.
- Apply appropriate control methods to remove/control the infestation of Hedera spp. in persistent cases.
- Dispose responsibly – never dump trimmings in natural areas where Ivy can re-root and spread. A good option is to dry the vine clippings on a tarp (plastic or canvas sheet) or on a paved surface, then shred them. Another method is to put the vines in black trash bags and leave them in the sun for several weeks, until they've 'cooked' enough to be non-viable.

