

## Ivy (*Hedera helix*)



Vine



*All parts of ivy are poisonous*

Ivy is a vigorous evergreen climber growing up to 30m. It is shade, frost and moisture tolerant and can grow in a wide range of conditions, including cliffsides, forest margins, and river beds as well as in urban gardens.

Ivy stems climb or creep via small clasping roots. The leaves are usually three to five lobed and arranged in one plane. Fertile branches, with flowers and differently shaped leaves only form after four to five years' growth. The flowers are yellow-green, in umbrella-shaped clusters. Fruit are purple-black berries and contain two to three seeds. All parts of ivy are poisonous.

Ivy seed is bird dispersed, but plants can also grow from layering or plant fragments. It is often spread by the careless dumping of garden waste.

If possible cut and paint the stem with herbicide. When desirable plants will not be affected the plants can be sprayed.

**Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods and identification of ivy varieties.**