DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP'S
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

INVASIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER

https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/japanese-stiltgrass

ENGLISH IVY

Hedera helix

HISTORY & IDENTIFICATION

- Native to Europe, it was brought to the US by early settlers in the 1800s as an ornamental
- It is a woody evergreen climbing vine.
- It has 2 forms: juvenile and mature. The juvenile plants have leaves with 3-5 lobes, herbaceous stems and very thin woody stems. The mature plants have leaves with no lobes and thick woody stems. Both forms have leaves with smooth edges, which are dark green with white or pale green veins

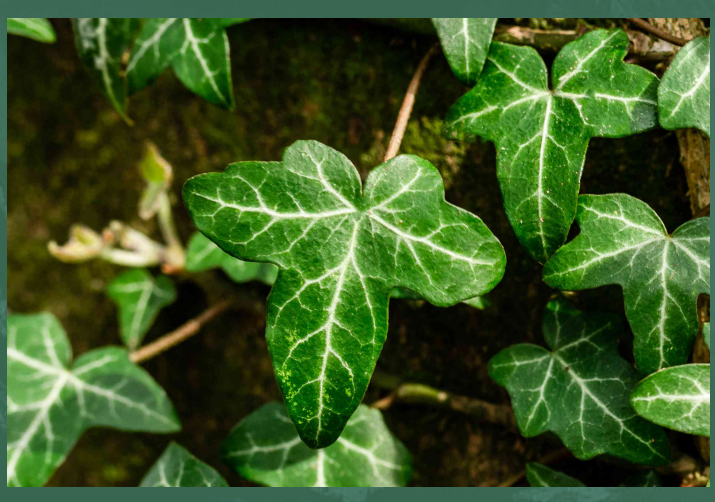
LIFE CYCLE & GROWTH HABIT

- It grows in fields, hedgerows, woodlands, forest edges and disturbed areas.
- Small flowers appear in the fall on mature stems
- and produce dark blue/black fruits, which the birds eat, spreading it.
- It does not thrive in wet areas but
- will grow in a wide range of soil pH.
- It does well in full, deep shade.

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

IDENTIFY & CONTROL

- Difficult to manage once established as a ground cover and vine and grows into thick carpets on forest floors, crowding out native vegetation.
- On trees, it will deny its host of sunlight and nutrients.
- Hand-pulling and mowing are effective
- Bag all vines and dispose with regular trash pickup.
- Cover ivy bed with 6-8" of mulch or compost



Native alternatives

- Allegheny pachysandra (*Pachysandra procumbens*)
- Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricate*)
- Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum)*
- Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostochoides*)

RESOURCES

https://pecpa.org/wp-content/uploads/9-Invasive-Species_English-Ivy.pdf

https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W231.pdf