



English Ivy *Hedera helix*

04-10



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 3-24, H1	Some shade in hottest climates	Dry, moist, acidic, chalky/alkaline, sandy, well drained	Moderate to regular watering	Small greenish white flowers that appear in cluster in fall	Vine grows limitless

Actually classified as a high climbing shrub, English ivy is considered by everybody -- except taxonomists -- to be a clinging vine with aerial rootlets to anchor it! There are many leaf forms, most of which have 3 to 5 lobes. Leaves may be widely different shades of green or have striking yellow or white variegation (the variety 'Green Arrow' is pictured). Quite old, mature ivy makes flowering shoots whose leaves are not lobed at all but oval. Flowers are small and inconspicuous, followed by black berries that are poisonous.

Native to Europe; now naturalized throughout the globe, except for the tropics.

As a ground cover beneath large trees, to cover bald spots where grass won't grow, and to grow over arbors, trellises, fences, and up tree trunks, ivy is hard to beat. The clinging root-like structures allow it to grow up perfectly flat walls as well. As topiary forms are ever more popular, it is now used a great deal to do ivy rings, globes, heart shapes, and almost any shape that can be defined by a wire! Because it roots easily in water, it is one of the longest lasting elements of greenery in floral arrangements.

**** All parts are poisonous if ingested**