

Impact Assessment Record

Scientific Name: Hedera helix

Common name: English ivy

QUESTION	COMMENTS	RATING	CONFIDENCE
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	Vines climb over trees and replace ground cover (Muyt 2001). Presence of weed would not restrict human access.	L	MH
2. Reduce tourism?	In Victoria, it has invaded dry and wet sclerophyll forests, woodlands, riparian vegetation, rocky outcrops and warm temperate rainforest (DEH 2004). May have a minor effect on aesthetics of an area.	ML	M
3. Injurious to people?	'Compounds in English ivy are somewhat toxic and include glycosides that cause vomiting, diarrhea, nervous conditions and dermatitis in sensitive individuals' (PCA 2005). Can result in skin rash, dermatitis in some people (Schmidt 2005). Poisoning has been reported in a child (Metcalf 2005), although unlikely to be ingested.	MH	H
4. Damage to cultural sites?	Vines climb over trees and replace ground cover (Muyt 2001). Presence of weed may have moderate visual effect on cultural sites.	ML	MH
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species (Muyt 2001).	L	MH
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species (Muyt 2001).	L	MH
7. Increase soil erosion?	'Rooting is prolific on all stems and the extensive rootlets on trailing stems can dry the soil surface around them' (Muyt 2001). Evergreen plant so highly unlikely to contribute to large scale soil movement.	L	MH
8. Reduce biomass?	'Vines climb as high as they can be supported and, with their heavy weight and vigour, smother and collapse overstorey plants' (Muyt 2001). Over time, trees may be replaced by more open community leading to a decrease in biomass.	H	MH
9. Change fire regime?	'Being evergreen and with a relatively high water content, ivy is slow to burn and will not readily spread fire well ... has been proposed to reduce fire risk in seasonally dry areas' (Metcalf 2005). Plant has potential to moderately change both frequency and intensity of fire risk.	MH	H
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Limestone Box Forest (V), CMA= East Gippsland, Bioreg.=East Gippsland Lowlands, CLIMATE=VH. An 'aggressive invader that threatens all vegetation levels of forested and open areas, growing along the ground as well as into the forest canopy' (PCA, 2005). Displaces all species within a layer.	H	MH
(b) medium value EVC	EVC=Riparian Forest (D), CMA= East Gippsland, Bioreg.=East Gippsland Lowlands, CLIMATE=VH. An 'aggressive invader that threatens all vegetation levels of forested and open areas, growing along the ground as well as into the forest canopy' (PCA, 2005). Displaces all species within a layer.	H	MH
(c) low value EVC	EVC=Lowland Forest (LC), CMA= East Gippsland, Bioreg.=East Gippsland Lowlands, CLIMATE=VH. An 'aggressive invader that threatens all vegetation levels of forested and open areas, growing along the ground as well as into the forest canopy' (PCA, 2005). Displaces all species within a layer.	H	MH

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11. Impact on structure?	An 'aggressive invader that threatens all vegetation levels of forested and open areas, growing along the ground as well as into the forest canopy' (PCA 2005). Major effects on all layers.	H	MH
12. Effect on threatened flora?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened flora.	MH	L
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?	This species is not documented as posing an additional risk to threatened fauna.	MH	L
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	No documented evidence to suggest weed effects non-threatened fauna species.	L	MH
15. Benefits fauna?	Weed not known to provide benefits to indigenous fauna.	H	MH
16. Injurious to fauna?	Weed not known to be injurious to fauna.	L	MH
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	Seed is dispersed by birds including English house sparrows, European starlings. (PCA 2005) In England, the typical consumer is the blackbird (ISSG 2005). In Australia, seed dispersed by foxes (Muyt 2001).	MH	MH
18. Provides harbour?	Not known to provide harbour for pest species.	L	MH
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	Not a weed of agriculture.	L	MH
20. Impact quality?	Not a weed of agriculture.	L	MH
21. Affect land value?	Weed not known to affect land value.	L	MH
22. Change land use?	Weed not known to cause a change in priority of land use.	L	MH
23. Increase harvest costs?	Not a weed of agriculture.	L	MH
24. Disease host/vector?	Not a known host or vector for disease of agriculture.	L	MH

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References cited:

Department of Environment and Heritage 2004, *Potential environmental weeds in Australia*, Department of Environment and Heritage, Canberra, viewed 16 Dec 2005, <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/weeds-potential/appendix-c-h.html>

Invasive Species Specialist Group 2005, *Hedera helix* (vine, climber), Global Invasive Species Database, The World Conservation Union, viewed 15 Dec 2005, <http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=469&fr=1&sts=sss>

Metcalf, D. J. 2005, '*Hedera helix* L.', *Journal of Ecology*, vol. 93, pp. 632-648.

Plant Conservation Alliance 2005, *English ivy: Hedera helix* L., National Park Service, Washington, viewed 15 Dec 2005, <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/hehe1.htm>

Schmidt, R.J. 2005, *Araliaceae* (ginseng or aralia or ivy family), Botanical Dermatology Database, viewed 15 Dec 2005, <http://bodd.cf.ac.uk/>

Revisions

Date	Revised by	Revision
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