



Control Options for English Holly

General Information

English holly is a small shrub or tree which can invade forested areas. There are both male and female plants, the female plants bearing the red to orange berries. The seeds are often spread by birds.

Manual/Mechanical Techniques

Small holly trees can be controlled through hand removal. Plants should be dug, taking care to remove the entire root. Disturbance of the soil during manual control may cause the germination of any seeds in the soil, so the area should be monitored to control any new seedlings.

Chemical Recommendations

English holly can be controlled using specific herbicides; with cut stump treatment being more effective than foliar applications (the waxy leaves do not absorb herbicides well). When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. Do not spray when it is windy or raining, or when rain is forecast. Do not cut sprayed plants for at least 2 weeks after herbicide application. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label.



Glyphosate (marketed as RoundUp and many other brands), **imazapyr** (several brand names) or **triclopyr** (marketed in many brush control herbicides) can be applied as cut stump treatments. Follow label instructions to find the correct herbicide concentration for cut stump treatments. The holly stem should be cut close to the ground and the herbicide should be applied directly on the stump, immediately after cutting. Frilling can also be used. For this method make deep, 45-degree angle cuts into the bark, around the stem. The cuts should be immediately treated with herbicide. Avoid spraying desired vegetation, as these herbicides can damage other plants.

NEVER apply RoundUp® or other herbicides to standing water unless they are distinctly labeled for aquatic use. Ingredients in non-aquatic products may be toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. Aquatic formulations of herbicides are generally only available to licensed pesticide applicators in Washington State. If the target plants are immediately adjacent to or are in standing water, a state permit may be required in order to treat those plants with an aquatically approved herbicide.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. Herbicide information is taken from the King County Noxious Weed Program and *Weed Control in Natural Areas of the Western United States* (University of California Weed Research & Information Center).