

Plant Alternatives to Atlantic, Irish or English Ivy Cultivars



While over 400 cultivars of ivy are used for landscaping, only a few are considered invasive. When allowed to climb and mature, invasive ivies produce seed-filled berries which are spread by birds. A serious problem in western Washington, these cultivars spread into forests where they block sunlight, smother trees, encourage rot, displace native flora, and harbor pests such as rats. Below is a list of some alternative plants that may be used in place of ivy:

Groundcovers:

Crinkle leaf creeper	<i>Rubus pentalobus</i>	sun/partial shade
Kinnickinnick	<i>Arcostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	sun/some shade, well-drained soil
Bunchberry	<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	partial/full shade, humus rich soil
Sword fern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>	sun or dry shade
Beach Strawberry	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	sun/partial shade, well-drained soil
Low Oregon grape	<i>Mahonia nervosa</i>	partial shade or shade with moisture
Sweet box	<i>Sarcococca hookeriana var. humilis</i>	partial/full shade, humus rich soil
Bearberry cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster dammeri</i>	sun/partial shade
Salal	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	sun to shade, most soil types
Wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis oregano</i>	shade, moist soil

Climbers:

Climbing hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea anomala subsp. petiolaris</i>	partial/full shade, humus rich soil
Western trumpet honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera ciliosa</i>	sun to partial shade
Kiwi vine	<i>Actinidia kolomikta</i>	sun to partial shade
Italian Clematis	<i>Clematis viticella</i>	sun to partial shade, well drained soil

For more information on ivy and other noxious weeds, please contact:
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