

ENGLISH HOLLY

Ilex aquifolium



English Holly is an evergreen tree/shrub that can grow 7-10 m (23-32ft) tall. With reddish orange berries, that are poisonous to humans, it forms dense thickets that dominate and suppress germination of native trees and shrubs. The leaves are glossy, dark green and wavy, and usually have sharp, stout spines along the edges. The flowers are small, whitish and sweetly scented. The seed (in berries) are spread by birds and the plant can also spread vegetatively.

HOW TO REMOVE:

- Wear proper clothing. It is important to cover up before removing English Holly. Durable gloves, long sleeves, long pants and proper shoes are recommended.
- The fastest and surest way to remove a holly tree is to dig it up. Small plants can be pulled or dug up when the soil is moist. Make sure to pull out all the roots. If you leave a piece of root in the ground, it may re-sprout.
- Mature trees have deep and extensive roots and digging can result in considerable soil disturbance. Dig all around the stump about 60 cm (2ft) away, loosening the soil as you go then dig deep enough, the roots may be 30 cm (1ft) or more into the ground. Use an axe to cut stubborn roots from the stump then once the stump is removed try to get the remaining root pieces out of the dirt.
- Cutting holly at the base usually results in re-sprouting from the crown, but with monitoring and follow up this can suppress the holly.
- Place in heavy trash bags for transportation to a proper green waste disposal facility. DO NOT COMPOST fresh cut green plants or roots. Disposal facilities: Salish Soils, Pender Harbour Transfer Station, Gibson's Residential Green Waste Drop off Site.
- Alternative plants: Oregon Grape, Pacific Crabapple, Tall Mahonia, Red Elderberry.
- Additional info: <http://bcinvasives.ca/invasive-species/identify/invasive-plants/english-holly>



www.penderharbourwildlife.com

