

Cape Ivy

Taking over creeks in Marin and Los Ranchitos

By Judy Schriebman

I'm seeing more and more of this non-native, extremely aggressive invader in our creeks as I walk along Circle Road. Cape Ivy is a much brighter green and has a less leathery leaf and vine than English ivy, but like English ivy, it can climb trees, cover the ground and smother everything. What's particularly nasty about this ivy is that even the smallest fragment, if left on the ground, will sprout into a new plant, so careful removal is key. Luckily, the roots are not deep, so it is fairly easy to pull especially when the ground is moist. Just make sure to get every bit out and don't let pieces drift downstream! Do not place any part of it in your home compost pile, but it can safely go into the green can. Seeds spread by wind, so removal before or during flowering is best. Spraying with herbicides near creeks is not recommended. More information here: <https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/ipcw/report41/>

(Below left) Cape ivy in flower—note: leaves 5 pointed vs 3 points of English ivy (below right)



Cape ivy smothering trees, ground

