

Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is a vigorous, woody evergreen climber that also creeps over the ground especially in wooded areas, as it happily tolerates dense shade.

Controlling ivy with herbicides is difficult and will normally require more than one application. The only herbicide with a label recommendation is **SBK Brushwood Killer** applied in oil during the dormant season, but results have been variable with this method. Use of hormones such as 2,4-D or mecoprop are not very effective.

Trials have shown that the most effective chemicals is triclopyr (SBK Brushwood Killer) and glyphosate (many products). However, triclopyr is expensive and glyphosate when used at standard rates gives poor results, as high rates of this chemical are required to be effective. The best approach is to use a tank-mix of triclopyr and glyphosate.

Because of the difficulty in controlling ivy, results can be variable. Effects can be slow to show, so do not judge the final result until a couple of months have elapsed. Even with good control, small pieces of ivy will be left which with time can re-grow. Ivy can also re-establish itself from seedlings. A two-spray programme is therefore recommended, with the second spray being applied later in the same season or in the following season.

Recommendations:

- Roundup 120 ml + SBK Brushwood Killer 200 ml per 100 m².
- The amount of water used is not critical but as a guideline apply between 4 – 5 litres per 100 m².
- Use of a wetter such as Sprayfast at 3ml per litre of water, or LI-700 at 1ml per litre is recommended as ivy has a very waxy leaf.
- The best time of year to spray is from April to June. Preferably spray when the ground is moist, as dry soil conditions can result in poor control.