

Hedera

Hedera, Ivy (*Araliaceae*)

Climbing, trailing or weeping plant, evergreen with adventitious roots which are used to cling to the ground or to any type of support. Once the plant reaches the top of the support it continues to grow but changes appearance and habit, becoming an aerial bush with leaves which are no longer lobate but entire, usually ovate and in autumn they begin to "flower" producing large globular inflorescences of yellow flowers followed by black fruits attracting birds. Ivy also grows in poor soils, in every position and it tolerates competition from roots of trees or bushes which grow above them. However, the best results are obtained in deep substrates, calcareous or slightly acid. The rule for all these plants is that if they are planted in the full-sun the roots must be in deep, cool soil. If grown in pots, no variety tolerates a very sunny position; they all require excellent drainage, moderate watering in winter, and a light and airy position; they do not like to be kept in heated places. When the plant gets too big it can be pruned at any time of year.



algeriensis

Origin: Algeria, Morocco. This is the green-leaved ivy which has the largest leaves, up to 16cm long, 18cm wide, ovate-triangular, dark glossy green borne on long, wine-red stalks. Tolerates maritime exposure.

algeriensis "Gloire de Marengo"

Origin: Algeria. This is the variegated ivy which withstands full sun and sea the best. Leaves are borne on wine-red stalks, mostly tri-lobed, 7cm long and wide on young branches, when the plant is older the leaves are up to 16cm. The leaves are green with silver shades in the centre, while the margins are creamy-white.



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colchica "Dentata Variegata"

Leaves are ovate, entire, rarely lobed, up to 10cm long, dark green with grey marbling in the centre and wide cream margins. This plant is preferable to "Gloire de Marengo" in areas which suffer from winter frost.

colchica "Sulphur Heart" (*H. colchica* "Paddy Pride") (*H. marmorata* "Aurea")

Very large leaves, 16cm in length and width, ovate, dark green with creamy-yellow marbling which starts at the stalk and radiates towards the centre and the edges.



helix, Common Ivy, English Ivy

Origin: Europe. Among the ivies that we grow, this is the most resistant to frost and pollution and it provides the best ground cover. Leaves 3-5 cm, mid-green.

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helix "Elegantissima"
(*H. helix* "Marginata
Elegantissima")

Very regular, 3-lobed or 5-lobed leaves, 3-5cm in length and width when young, then 7-8cm. The leaves are green with grey shades in the centre which are brightened up at the edges by the large silvery-white margins. Grows slowly in the first years and is not very dense.

helix "Oro di Bogliasco"
(*H. helix* "Goldheart")

Origin: Italy. Tri-lobed leaves, small in the first years (3-5cm), but with age they reach 10- 12cm. Vivid green at the edges, bright golden yellow in the centre.



helix "Sagittifolia"

Leaves mostly 5-lobed, the rest 3-lobed, with the central lobe longer (up to 7cm) while the side lobes are turned inwards.

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hibernica (H. hibernica),
Irish Ivy

Leathery, 5-lobed leaves, 5-7cm when young, later up to 15cm. Vivid, dark green with pale grey veins. It is the most popular Ivy, also used a lot for ground cover.