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## Manual Ivy Removal Methods

### *From Portland Park and Recreation's "No Ivy League"*

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Girdle - The most basic technique to stop tree-climbing ivy dead in it's tracks.

Once you have located a tree infested with ivy, use either loppers or a pruning saw to cut through each vine clinging to the tree trunk at shoulder height and at ankle height. This severs the connection between the life sustaining roots and the rest of the ivy. Be sure to cut ALL vines as even one can continue to nourish ivy higher up the tree. Strip the Ivy away from the tree between the two cuts - some vines can be so big that you need to pry them away from the tree - just be careful not to damage the bark. Toss the stripped section of vine or save one or more as a trophy -- how will your friends believe that you cut away a vine as big as your arm without the proof? Recheck the 'girdled' area for any thin vines which may have grown under the tree's bark and you're finished but after all that work, you don't want to give Ivy a head start by leaving it to grow next to the base of the tree...

Full Lifesaver - After girdling a tree work to clear the surrounding area of Ivy.

Imagine a 6-foot radius circle around the tree you have girdled; begin by peeling back the Ivy mat 6 feet from the tree and thoroughly pull every vine and root from the circle. You may also find it helpful to cut "slices" in the ivy mat within your imaginary circle and rip out ivy like a piece of pie. If you are working on a slope, pull downhill and let gravity work with you.

Research has shown the once Ivy has been pulled at least 6 feet away from a tree it will continue to grow away from the tree rather than towards it again. Our field tests have shown that a good 6 foot Lifesaver will halt the infestation of a tree for over 10 years! The keys to an effective Lifesaver are consistency and patience; all vines and roots must be removed.

Log Roll - This method is most effective in areas with a serious Ivy problem, and when used properly, can be quite efficient and gratifying.

Begin by designating the area to be log rolled( a hillside or group of infested trees). Mark the top perimeter by cutting a line in the ivy mat, be sure to get every vine! If you are on a slope, cut horizontally across the slope to allow the ivy mat to be pulled downhill. Start to lift the mat and pull the cut edge of the vines downhill, rolling the ivy mat over itself. Let gravity do most of the work but also be aware of your surroundings unless you regularly perform backwards somersaults. Scan for native plants that may make rolling difficult and cut a line in the ivy perpendicular to your pulling edge so that the vine mat can be pulled around; this saves native plants that might otherwise have been uprooted by the thick mat and makes the log roll much more manageable.

If you find yourself with a stuck roll proceed to divide the log into several pieces and slice out the remaining perimeter. Once you have accumulated a few large ivy logs they must be mulched to ensure the ivy does not resprout; thoroughly chop, mince, and dice your logs and spread the mulch back over the area. While spreading mulch search for any small roots and vines they may have been left. Remember it only takes one vine to reestablish the infestation