



Knox County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

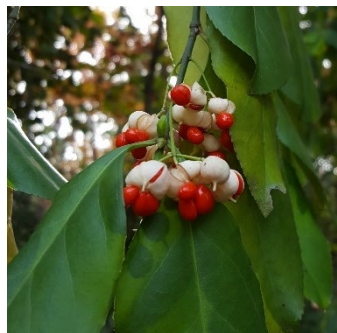
Save our Trees Campaign



Do you have trees that look like this? These trees are covered in Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*), one of the most invasive plants in Knox County, and these trees need your help!

Wintercreeper is an evergreen woody vine that spreads as dense groundcover and can climb trees or structures up to a height of 70 ft. Wintercreeper can be spotted by its glossy, opposite, toothed leaves and clusters of red berry-like fruit in the fall.

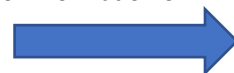
The issue with Wintercreeper is that it can form dense groundcover in interior woods, outcompeting native plants and trees. Birds disperse its seeds, spreading it far and wide. Climbing vines can inhibit large trees by growing into the bark and adding pressure/stress to the tree.



Images from top left, going clockwise: Wintercreeper leaves and fruit, large Wintercreeper vine on tree, Wintercreeper spreading as groundcover.

**If you want your trees to be healthy, remove
Wintercreeper from them!**

Control information on
back





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Wintercreeper Control Methods

- **Manual:** Most manual methods are not effective because Wintercreeper has long stems that root into the ground at multiple locations and mature plants have large, extensive root systems. Small patches that can be pulled or dug up, but they should be bagged or allow to dry out before disposing. Stem fragments can reroot, if conditions are right.
- **Chemical:** Cut stump treating large vines is very effective. Make sure to take a “cookie” out of climbing stems and treat the lower cut surface with an herbicide permitted for cut stem treatment, like glyphosate*. For large patches of Wintercreeper spreading as groundcover, foliar herbicide applications are the best method. Using a 3% solution of a product with triclopyr ester* as an active ingredient plus a non-ionic surfactant works well. If applied in fall, minimal damage will occur to surrounding vegetation.

*Always follow herbicide label instructions. Failure to do so is against the law.



Above image: The extensive root system of a mature Wintercreeper plant.



Above image: Wintercreeper about 2 months after being sprayed with a foliar application.

Right image: A cut stump treated Wintercreeper vine with a section (“cookie”) removed.



For more information on Wintercreeper and other invasive species, visit the Knox County CISMA website (<http://knoxcountyswcd.com/kccisma/>) or follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/knoxcountycisma/>).

If you would like help identifying Wintercreeper and other invasive plants, contact Will Drews, the Knox County SWCD Natural Resource Specialist, at willem.drews@in.nacdnet.net or by calling 812-882-8210 x 3408.