

## SUSTAINABILITY DEPARTMENT



WELCOME TO OUR

# Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to the sixth issue of our monthly newsletter! We are thrilled to be able to share what we are doing at the Athens-Clarke County Sustainability Department with you. Join us each month as we explore all things sustainability and how you can get involved!

## *Putting Energy into Greener Spaces*



**In this newsletter you will find:**

Latest projects, free resources, and upcoming events!

# TIPS FOR A GREENER LIFESTYLE!

## *How can we live sustainably?*

IN THIS SERIES WE EXPLORE HOW WE CAN BE SUSTAINABLE TOGETHER,  
RIGHT HERE IN ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY!



THIS MONTH'S TOPIC:

## BUYING LOCAL IN EVERY SEASON!



HANNAH CHAFFEE

Athens is blessed with a thriving community of entrepreneurs. A great way to enjoy the weather and support local businesses is by visiting Athens' various markets. Whether you're looking to snag an early gift for your impossible to shop for family member or simply getting some ingredients for that recipe you've been dying to try, buying local –when you can– is a great way to live more sustainably!

Small local businesses don't have to transport their goods long distances, significantly reducing the emissions associated with their products. When it comes specifically to agriculture, this often means that available produce is seasonal. Right now, apples, sweet potatoes, and winter squash are in season along with many leafy greens and cruciferous vegetables.

The more connected you can be with the supply chains that provide you with goods and services, the better. A large part of being an ethical consumer is educating yourself

about a businesses' environmental and social standards. Buying local gives you the opportunity to ask sellers how a product gets into your hands and who helped along the way. Often, local entrepreneurs are excited to share the steps they are taking to be more sustainable.

**Make an effort to patron minority owned businesses! Your support grows opportunity for disadvantaged communities.**



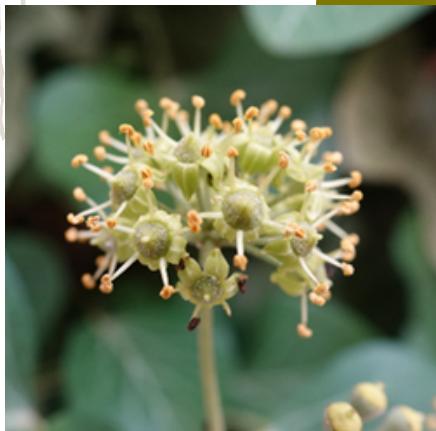
# ENGLISH IVY INVASIVE OF THE MONTH!

CHRISTIAN SNEAD

English ivy (*Hedera helix* L.) is a Category 1 invasive species in the state of Georgia, meaning that it poses a serious threat to native habitat. English ivy is an evergreen perennial climbing vine that attaches to tree bark, brickwork, and other surfaces by excreting a glue-like substance that helps it stick and stay in place.

It is native to Europe, Scandinavia, and Russia, having first been introduced to the United States in 1727. It continues to be sold as an ornamental plant despite its threat to natural ecosystems, parks, landscapes and other green areas. You can find English ivy in 28 different states, including Hawaii.

English ivy thrives in shady to full-sun conditions, and prefers moist soil. It doesn't tolerate drought or salinity well. The vines grow outwards, ranging in





length from anywhere between 3 to 50 feet, dependent on how tall its supporting structure is.

English ivy has two growing stages: juvenile, and mature. The plant is considered juvenile in its first year of growth, featuring palmate leaves with 3-5 lobes. However, when the plant is flowering in its mature stage, you can find different variations of its leaves along the vine. Primarily, leaves at this stage are dark green with whitish veins with a waxy cuticle (outer coating of the leaf).

English Ivy doesn't bloom until it's reached its adult stage, producing a starburst cluster of small, greenish-yellow flowers in late summer to early fall. Its fruits are small, black, and have a fleshy outer layer with stone-like seeds in the center. Birds eat these fruits and disperse the seeds to new areas, assisting its spread.

A common misconception is that English Ivy is a good ground cover, but in reality, it does not sport a very robust or extensive root system, failing to prevent erosion particularly on steeper slopes.



In the United States, there aren't any natural pests or diseases that affect English ivy, and there are many places across the country that have been labeled "Ivy Deserts" because the ivy has completely choked out other plants, decreasing bug diversity, which subsequently decreases bird populations as well. Areas that are heavily afflicted by large mats of English ivy on the ground retain moisture which can create breeding grounds for mosquitos.

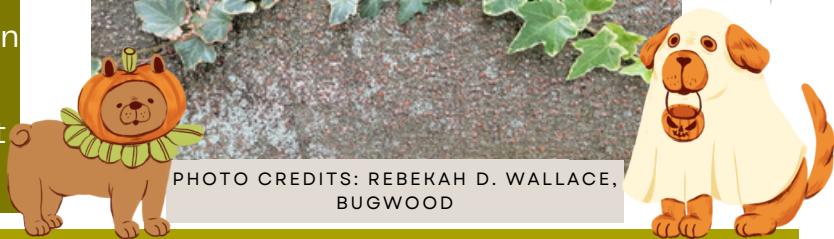
Removal of English ivy is straightforward, but can be time consuming and tedious. The first step is to remove the climbing vines; severing the stem will cause the plant growing above that line to die, allowing you to focus on the removal of everything below. Roots can be pulled up by hand and disposed of by being left to dry out and die or by being thrown in the trash. When using herbicide, it's more efficient to focus on newer growth, as older leaves are more robust and resistant to chemical treatment.



PHOTO CREDITS: REBEKAH D. WALLACE, BUGWOOD



[FOR SOURCES AND TO LEARN MORE CLICK HERE](#)





# THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT -AND COLORFUL

## ACC CHILDREN HELP COLOR A SUSTAINABLE ATHENS AT THE ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

## HANNAH CHAFFEE

Athens-Clarke County Sustainability Department hosted a booth at the 3rd Annual Athens-Clarke County Sheriff's Office's Fall Festival. The event was well attended by many celebrities including numerous princesses and notable superheroes, along with the more traditional crowd.

of vampires, dinosaurs and zombies.

All of whom helped the ACC Sustainability staff color in what a sustainable future in Athens can look like: filled with native species, powered by renewable energy, and most importantly –built together!

Check out our collage below!

**“YOU GUYS ARE  
DOING GREAT!”**

- Local Spiderman to Sustainability Staff



COLLAGE FROM FALL FESTIVAL

# PUTTING ENERGY INTO GREENER SPACES

## Athens-Clarke County Sustainability Department

[www.accgov.com/green](http://www.accgov.com/green)

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