

## Ivy

**Hedera spp.** or Ivy is the most common trailing houseplant used indoors year round. Remarkably the two most common species, English Ivy (*H. helix*) and Algerian Ivy (*H. canariensis*) with hundreds of cultivars, require very similar care and environments indoors and are considered an excellent natural air purifier in homes.

**Flowering and foliage-** Typically 3 to 5 lobed, dark green, typically 2"-4" long leaves that may possess white, cream or yellow margins, veins or marbling. Leaf shape varies greatly from duck foot, heart-shaped, ruffled, shield-like, etc.

**Light-** Requires bright to medium indirect light with some direct sun. Placement near a north, east, or filtered west and south window will work well.

**Temperature-** Grow in average household temperatures to cooler areas (45-65 degrees F). Avoid hot rooms where spider mites can become a problem.

**Watering-** Water thoroughly, but let soil dry out slightly between waterings. Average humidity is beneficial. If kept on a high shelf use a humidity tray.

**Fertilize-** Use Osmocote for Houseplants in the spring lasting all growing season, or use a water soluble multi-purpose plant food once every month April through September.

**Other maintenance needs-** Repot in spring when the plant has outgrown its container. Pinch back new growth to make the plant full again. Propagate by taking tip cuttings to root in water or moist soil. An insecticidal soap spray and a systemic insecticide are best at controlling any infestation the plant may develop.

*\*Grape Ivy, Cissus rhombifolia, can be grown with the same care as above, but easier! Grape Ivy tolerates bright to low light levels, moist to slightly dry soil, and grows faster.*

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