

You Can Save Your Tree From Strangling Vines



- **Vines add significant weight to trees**, making them top-heavy and likely to fall in a storm.
- **Vines trap moisture against the bark**, which prevents the bark from breathing and causes it to rot, weakening and killing the tree.
- **Vines wrap around and strangle trees**, preventing them from growing and slowly girdling them, which prevents nutrients and water from traveling between the roots and leaves.
- **Vines shade trees' leaves**, preventing them from receiving the sunlight they need to live.



This is a tree that will face an early death because of the choking ivy.

Vines will kill your valuable trees. Trees increase property values and improve the visual appeal of neighborhoods, reduce stormwater runoff, cool houses in the summer, provide habitat for wildlife like birds and butterflies, and sequester carbon. Trees are a valuable asset and need to be properly maintained. **Removing vines is an easy, inexpensive step to protect your trees.**

Invasive vines like English ivy, porcelain berry, oriental bittersweet, and kudzu will kill your trees if they are allowed to grow on them: The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has fact sheets on the most common invasive vines in Pennsylvania, which can help you identify which vines you have and the recommended methods of removal: www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/WildPlants/InvasivePlants/InvasivePlantFactSheets/Pages/default.aspx

Saving Trees is Easy: Follow Vine Removal Instructions on the Back

Contact the Abington Shade Tree Commission if you have questions: stc@abingtonpa.gov
<https://www.abingtonpa.gov/government/shade-tree-commission>

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How to Remove Vines from Your Trees

- **Cut, don't pull, vines from the trees:** the goal is to sever the vines from their roots, causing the vines higher in the tree to die. This is the best method because trying to pull the vines from higher in the tree can damage the tree.
 - By cutting the vines at ground level and removing a few feet of them from the tree, everything above the cut will die and decompose.
 - No chemicals are required—just pruners and possibly a small saw. Wear eye protection and long sleeves to avoid irritation.
- **Cut the vines all the way around the tree from the base to about eye level,** at least 3-5' high. Hand clippers can be used to remove the smaller vines and expose the main, larger vines. The vines can fuse together, requiring sawing, but be careful not to damage the tree trunk.
- **Carefully peel the vines away from the trunk down to the ground.** Vines attach to tree trunks with aerial roots. At ground level, just either pull out the vine's roots from the soil or cut at the base.
- **Dispose of the cut vines** in yard waste or place them roots up to dry out and die.



Before and after the vines have been removed. The top growth will decompose on its own. Courtesy of the OSU Extension Service

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