



Controlling Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)

Cut stem treatment

If you have large diameter (>1/4") vines climbing trees or walls, cut the vine with pruners or saw and treat the cut stem with glyphosate (sold as Roundup, Drexel Imitator Plus [available at Rural King], Glypro, and many other trade names). Refer to the product label for the dilution rate to use for cut stem treatment (for instance, Drexel Imitator Plus, which has 41% active ingredient, is to be used full strength or diluted 1:1 with water for cut stem treatments). No surfactant needs to be added for cut stem treatments. Stems can be treated whenever the temperature is above freezing other than in spring (April-May) when rising sap may prevent the uptake of herbicide through the cut. Check for resprouts from the base of the cut vine and pull them out or use a foliar herbicide spray until there are no more sprouts.

If your stems are small diameter (<1/4") and growing in a mat over the ground you can pull or mulch the plants or use a foliar herbicide spray.

Pulling wintercreeper

Start at the edge of the wintercreeper mat and pull the vines gently and slowly so the roots are pulled up with the vine. You can roll up the vines as you work, ending with a large ball of vines which should be chipped or composted. Do not leave the pulled vines in contact with the ground; they will re-root and start growing again. Pulling is most effective when ground is not frozen and is somewhat moist, but can be done most times of year. There will be resprouting from underground stems; these resprouts will need to be pulled for multiple years to finally eradicate the plants.

Mulching wintercreeper

Place pieces of cardboard over the plants, making sure the cardboard extends at least 6" beyond the edge of the wintercreeper. Cover the cardboard with 3" to 5" of leaf or wood chip mulch. The mulch must stay in place for **at least two growing seasons** to kill the plants, and note that all other plants under the mulch will die as well. To increase effectiveness, continue to layer cardboard and mulch until the pile is 12" deep. Cutting the plants with a weed whacker before adding cardboard and mulch may also increase effectiveness.

Foliar herbicide spray

Wintercreeper leaves can be sprayed with a glyphosate solution (sold as Roundup, Drexel Imitator Plus [available at Rural King], Glypro, and many other trade names). Refer to the product label for the dilution rate to use for foliar treatment (for instance, Drexel Imitator Plus, which has 41% active ingredient, recommends diluting the product to 2% for most foliar applications. That is, 2 parts herbicide to 98 parts water. However, wintercreeper leaves are tough and require a stronger solution. 5% is recommended; for one gallon of mix, that means 6.5 ounces herbicide with water added to make one gallon volume.)

A non-ionic surfactant should be added to the mix so the herbicide can penetrate the waxy leaf cuticle on wintercreeper. There are many surfactants for sale, but NuFilm IR is a surfactant recommended for plants with waxy cuticles and should be added at 0.3%. This means adding 0.4 oz per gallon of mix.

Spray on days when the high temperature exceeds 40 degrees F, winds are less than 5 mph, and leaves are dry. Spraying in late fall (mid-October to late November) or early spring (February to mid-March) when native plants are still dormant will minimize non-target damage. Spraying during times of drought may decrease the uptake of chemical and reduce effectiveness.

Because wintercreeper can have multiple layers of leaves, the first foliar spray may not reach all of the leaves. One option is to use a weed whacker to cut the top layer of leaves off and expose the bottom layer, then spray that layer. A second option is to do another foliar spray a month or two after the initial treatment, once the top layer has died and exposed the bottom layer. The treated area should be checked for resprouts in the next two growing seasons and the spraying repeated until the infestation is gone.

Example of glyphosate herbicide label:

http://www.drexelchemical.com/Products/Labels/Drexel_Imitator-Plus_10092_LABEL.pdf
(5% solution = 6.5 oz. per gallon)

Nufilm IR surfactant:

http://www.rrsi.com/res/product/labels/Nu-Film-IR_LABEL.pdf
(0.3% solution = 0.4 oz. per gallon)