

# IVY JOURNAL



*Hedera helix* 'Gold Child'

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Naples FL 34106-2123 U.S.A.

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Photo by Rachel Cobb

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# President's Message

Suzanne Warner Pierot

Because *Hedera* is such a great vining plant, some forget how many other ways it can be used—as espaliers, hanging baskets, topiaries—and, if you live in a climate where the winters are not harsh, a great ground cover. This issue is primarily devoted to using *Hedera* as Bonsai: the art of dwarfing normally large plant material by carefully pruning its branches and roots. This results in a plant that looks very old. Traditionally, outdoor plant material such as junipers and pines are used. However, you can create indoor bonsai by using ivies.

We are fortunate that Margareta Limburg from the Yama Ki Bonsai Society and Doris W. Froning, past President of the American Bonsai Society have each contributed articles for this issue along with photographs and line drawings to help you start your own ivy bonsai.

In our next Journal we will give you detailed instructions for creating your own ivy topiaries. We hope to have some suggestions from many experts including our own Pat Hammer, Director and past President of the American Ivy Society, author of *The New Topiary—Imaginative Techniques from Longwood Gardens* and Joanie Finch from Cliff Finch's Zoo, one of the foremost creators of topiary frames.

In a future issue we also hope to give you a list of the broad range of ivies that are available. Ask most people how many varieties of ivy there are and they may guess—10 or 20. In fact, Russell Windle, International Registrar of *Hedera* and owner of "Hedera etc.", grows and sells over 400 different cultivars.

If you have never been on one of our American Ivy Society trips, we urge you to join in the fun. We have been to England, Canada, Ireland and this year we went to Holland. Next year we will be visiting Boston, Massachusetts and Newport, Rhode Island. Hope to meet you personally on one of these trips.



Editor's Note: When we saw a photo of the 2007 Ivy of the Year, H.h.'Shamrock' used as a bonsai, we asked the owner, Margareta Limburg, a long-time member of the American Ivy Society, to tell us the secret of her success with this 35 year old ivy bonsai (see photo) as well as her other bonsais. Her 'Shamrock' bonsai has been exhibited at the New York Botanical Garden almost every year since the 1990's, as well as at the Hammond Museum's Japanese stroll garden.

## MY FAVORITE IVY

By Margareta Limburg

Twenty-three years ago I acquired a small ivy bonsai at a bonsai auction. It had been styled and grown by a member of Yama Ki Bonsai Society and was then about twelve years old. The owner had died and left his collection to the Society. I was quite new to this fascinating hobby and took my new acquisition straight to my bonsai teacher, Yuji Yoshimura, who identified it as *Hedera helix* 'Shamrock' and suggested ways to restyle it so that it would be more "mine".

The restyling involved cutting off a fairly large branch which I took home and rooted and is now a small version of the mother plant. I named the original tree "Yuji". The baby, 22 years old, has no name. Some years later, a sport appeared. I cut it off, rooted it, and it, too, is now a bonsai. It was identified as 'Fallen Angel' by Sabina M. Sulgrove. It has a completely different growing habit, somewhat willful, harder to shape – but fun.

'Shamrock' turned out to be the ideal ivy to form into a bonsai. Its habit is upright and tight, it is self-branching, and the leaves are a lustrous dark green that reduce in size easily (that is important in bonsais). The new leaves are light green which makes the plant look like it is in sunshine. And it is pretty trouble free: the only pest I have noticed is scale. I check the plant(s) often, and before bringing them inside in the fall, I give them a spraying with horticultural oil.

'Shamrock' is tolerant of many different growing situations; sun or shade, indoor or outdoor; wet or dry. I try to keep my plants in semi-sun and to keep them moist. Because my husband and I spend a lot of time away in the winter, I keep them in a cold frame during that time. One thing about a cold frame; other than checking and watering now and then, you have to leave it closed until late spring. If you take the plant out (or in, I should say) it has to stay in the rest of the winter. I don't know why but I have lost some by taking them in or out too early.

Caring for a bonsai is a little like having a baby in the family. When I am home and have my trees inside, I give them a weekly shower in the kitchen sink. I check them for moisture every day and feed them about once a month in winter; twice as

often in the growing season. Bonsai people are pretty particular about what they feed their trees, but I figure the trees don't really care as long as they get fed, so I use a balanced mix like 5-10-5 or similar. Never had a complaint!

I keep my plants on glass shelves in a west-facing window with two skylights above. In winter, when the leaves are down outside, they get a lot of sun. By February one can see that they are beginning to wake up. As soon as the weather gets nice, I start taking them out to harden off. Of course they can't go in the sun until they are acclimated to the strong light outside and I take them in every night until the nights are frost-free.



*Hedea helix* 'Shamrock'.

Photo by Margareta Limburg



I don't usually repot my trees until I can do it outside—that way I don't get soil on the rugs or clippings all over. First the tree gets a haircut. All leaves that are too large are cut off and some branches may be cut back. The tree will look a bit naked, but it helps to cut back the top, since I will also trim back the roots by about a third.

The tree is taken out of its pot, the old soil cleaned off—a strong sprayer works well—and the roots trimmed back. Then a layer of new soil is put in the pot, the tree is positioned, and soil filled in around the roots. I use my own mix of compost, grit (Granny Grit) and bonsai soil. Somewhat unusual, but it works for me and more to the point – for the plants.

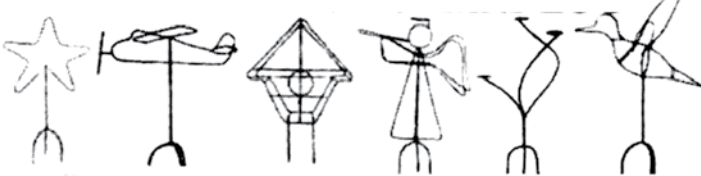
Last I put on moss for a finishing touch. Then the whole pot is placed in a large pan filled with water and left to soak until all the soil is wet. After that, the tree is placed on a bench where it will stay until fall comes again. Any time that the tree is going to be exhibited, it gets another haircut and maybe new moss and the pot gets cleaned too. Otherwise the tree is left to grow for the summer and into the fall. I love my bonsais and I love the time I spend with them.

## ABOUT ME

My husband and I live on a fairly large place, too much to really take care of now that we are older. So each of us concentrates on what we love best: he on vegetables, I on containers, mostly bonsais. I used to specialize in tropicals and semi hardy species but have branched out to include hardy species since we are away a lot. (They can be left alone all winter), we also have a perennial bed and a rock garden, sadly pruned by the deer.

I am a member of a local garden club, the 9th District of NY Federated Garden Clubs, the Herb Society of America and Yama Ki Bonsai Society. My interest in ivies led me to become a member of the American Ivy Society about 10 years ago. (I have a small collection). I am also an accredited master flower show judge.

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# IVY BONSAI – WHY NOT?

By Doris W. Froning

*Editor's Note. Doris Froning is a past president and member of the American Bonsai Society, Brandywine Bonsai and Shohin Bonsai Societies. She has been training bonsai for more than forty years and has trees on display at the National Arboretum in Washington, DC. Mrs. Froning was recently awarded the prestigious BenOki Artistic Design Award by the American Bonsai Society. She has written and lectured extensively on Bonsai and is working with Mary Alinson as a volunteer on the Longwood Gardens collection. She is a resident of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.*

*This article originally appeared in the Summer 1992 issue of the Ivy Journal and we reprint it here for our new members who did not have the opportunity to read it then.*

We've all seen ivy as topiaries, espaliers, hanging baskets and just plain lush and beautiful pots of ivy. But if you haven't tried ivy as bonsai, you are missing an interesting and fun way to display the many variations of *Hedera*.

There are a number of bonsai styles that can be adapted for use with ivies. The four styles most suited are: informal upright, slant style, semi-cascade, and full cascade. Other possibilities include growing ivy on or in a rock.

## **INFORMAL UPRIGHT**

The informal upright has an upright main trunk, but the trunk has soft curves and the trunk tapers as it rises to the top of the tree. The branches also have curves.

The first branch is the longest and strongest branch and may be on either side. This branch should have secondary branches, the widest closest to the main trunk and then tapering to a rounded point at the tip.

The second branch should be opposite and up a little higher, and it should be shorter than the main branch.



The third branch needs to be at the back of the tree to give depth to the composition.

The rest of the branches are shorter as they go to the top of the tree. Each branch remains at its own level. The outline of the bonsai should be in the form of a scalene triangle, (a triangle with three uneven sides).

### **SLANT STYLE BONSAI**

The slant style is exactly what the name indicates: the trunk leans at an angle and the first branch is on the opposite side of the slant to achieve balance. The second branch is opposite the first and is fairly short. This style also has a branch in the back and again a triangular outline.

### **SEMI-CASCADE BONSAI**

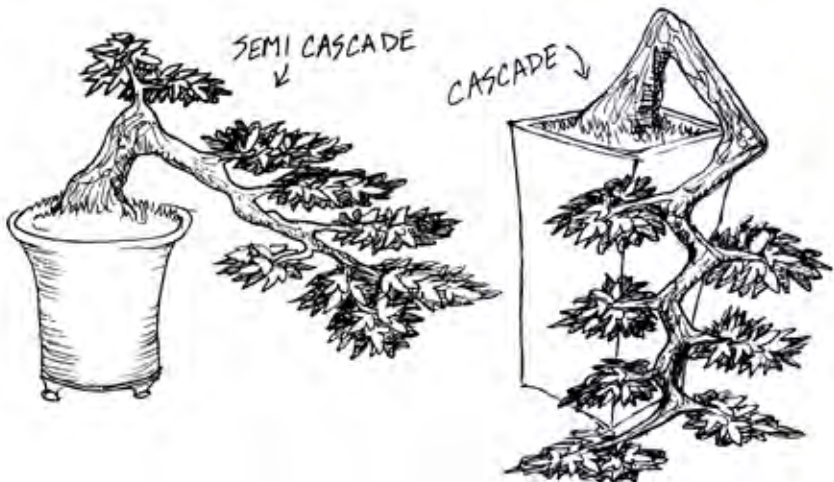
The semi-cascade style of bonsai extends the main trunk below the rim of the pot, but the trunk does not fall below the bottom of the pot. In this style and in the full cascade style, the main trunk can have a small trunk reaching upward at the point where the main trunk curves down. The Japanese call this small secondary trunk, the "mist over the mountain trunk." The bonsai resembles a tree that has fallen down the mountainside and a new trunk is reaching up to the sun.

### **FULL-CASCADE BONSAI**

The full cascade style of bonsai is a long, cascading trunk that descends below the bottom of the pot. It has opposing branches and the branches closest to the base of the trunk are the widest. Usually this style of bonsai has curves in the trunk and the tips curve upward to reach the sun.

### **SOIL**

Use a soil that holds moisture but drains fast. A mixture of pine bark mulch, calcined clay, and gravel in equal parts works well. This mix needs regular



fertilizing, such as monthly applications of liquid fertilizer to keep the bonsai healthy and growing.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF IVIES SUITABLE FOR BONSAI

Varieties to be used for bonsai should have small leaves and branch freely. When looking for potential candidates, try to find an ivy with a heavy trunk and thick roots at the base. Once the plant is in a small bonsai pot containing only a few tablespoons of soil, it will not increase in diameter at a fast rate. The ivy leaves become smaller in size after a year or two when confined in a small pot, but it is wise to start with varieties that are in proportion with the bonsai you are creating.

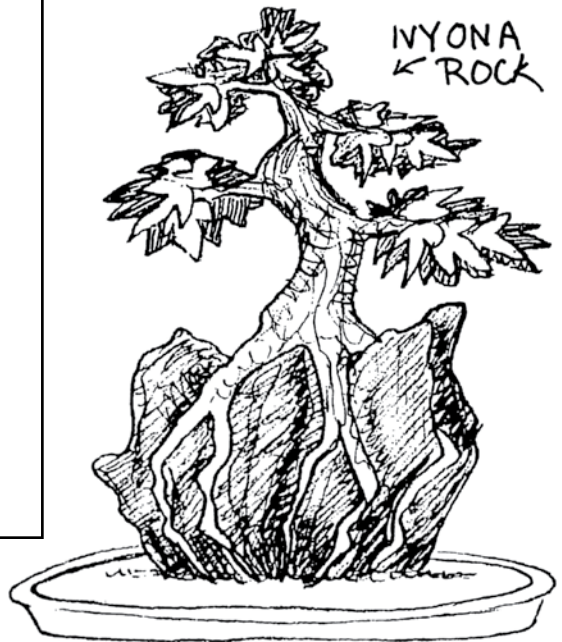
Upright styles can be made from a plant that grows upright naturally. Or the trunk can be trained by using copper or aluminum wire wrapped at a 45 degree angle around the trunk to hold it until the trunk has thickened and will hold its shape. Remove the wire before it damages the trunk with wire marks.

Some ivy varieties that have been used for bonsai are: *Hedera helix* 'Irish Lace', 'Duck Foot' and 'Shamrock'. Other possibilities include 'Olive Rose', 'Flamenco' and 'Midget'. There are countless possible candidates. One especially nice variety is *Hedera helix* 'Spetchley' (also called 'Gnome') which makes a lovely small bonsai, the kind called "shohin" that is ten inches and under.

Try an ivy bonsai – or two or three. You will like the challenge. Your friends will admire your artistic ability as well as your horticultural expertise.

#### SUGGESTED IVIES FOR BONSAI:

- H.h.* 'Anita'
- H.h.* 'Chalice'
- H.h.* 'Ellen Meakin'
- H.h.* 'Green Feather'
- H.h.* 'Ivalace'
- H.h.* 'Medusa'
- H.h.* 'Small Deal'
- H.h.* 'Stuttgart'
- H.h.* 'Telecurl'



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## Endowment Fund

The American Ivy Society has established an Endowment Fund for the purpose of studying and propagating ivy, ivy education, and promoting the appreciation and enjoyment of ivy.

Contributions may be sent to: AIS Treasurer, David Clark  
4105 Crown Hill Road, Jarrettsville, MD 21084

Checks should be made payable to The American Ivy Society.

**All contributions are tax deductible.**

# IVY OF THE YEAR 2008

## *Hedera helix* 'Gold Child'

The American Ivy Society has selected *Hedera helix* 'Gold Child' as the ivy of the year for 2008.

This beautiful gold variegated ivy, has proven to be a very useful ivy, whether in the home or in the garden. *Hedera helix* 'Gold Child' was first introduced in 1971 by Thomas Rochford from the House of Rochford, England, and received the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Merit. This ivy first appeared in the US in the early 1980's where it quickly became popular with the commercial growers.

'Gold Child's' leaves have three to five lobes with rounded tips. The variegation is a bright gold margin with a green to green gray center. The brightness of the variegation is temperature dependent. In cooler temperatures the color is a very intense gold but in warmer weather the color can fade to butter yellow. The color is also not as intense if grown in the shade but the variegation is still prominent.

You may find an ivy with the name *Hedera helix* 'Gold Baby', in stores but don't let the name fool you. We have grown this ivy side by side with 'Gold Child' and have found no difference. Since the name 'Gold Child' is the older name, they should be considered the same plant.

This ivy makes a great houseplant where it makes long runners. It has also proven to be a great out door ivy where it has been successfully grown in hardiness zone 5 and 6, -10 to -20 degrees (F) for over 20 years. Variegated ivies tend to show more winter damage so care should be used to plant them in colder climates in a more protected spot. When leaves are damaged in winter they are quickly shed when the new growth starts in the spring.

The American Ivy Society started the "Ivy of the Year" program in 2001, with 'Lady Frances', 2002 'Teardrop', 2003 'Golden Ingot', 2004 'Duck Foot', 2005 'Misty', 2006 'Anita', and 2007 'Shamrock'.

When planting outdoors, remember to plant ivies deep, removing several of the lower leaves, and planting to the new lowest leaves. Ivies will root along this new stem allowing the ivy to better establish into the new planting. When possible, especially with variegated ivies, plant them where they will be protected from the winter sun and wind which causes the most winter damage.

### **Press information or photos contact:**

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*Hedera helix* 'Gold Child', Ivy of the Year 2008.

Photo: Rachel Cobb



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# INSTANT DRAMA FOR YOUR WINDOW BOXES

By Suzanne Pierot

**Window boxes can be made to look full and lush the first day they are installed. How? Grow one-sided ivy. Save money too.**

Forget what you've learned about turning your pots to make the vines grow evenly as you would for exhibiting them in a flower show. My one gallon pots of ivy sit on a table behind my living room couch and they get great light—but only on one side. I never turn them. I take them to the sink once a week to water them, thoroughly spray the leaves with cold water and return them to the same position in the window.

I learned to do this out of necessity. I must grow my variegated and small-leaved ivies indoors because I live in the mountains above Woodstock, New York where the winters can sometimes go below 0°F. (zone 4+). Once the weather warms up sufficiently—usually around May 1<sup>st</sup>, I take my ivy pots and plunk them into the window box and they look spectacular from day one.

To give height to the window box, I put one gallon pots of *Spathiphyllum*, a great houseplant, between the ivies. I've had mine for many years. They are easy to grow, don't need much light, have nice white flowers even in the dead of winter, but the best thing of all is how easily they can be propagated. They sit in



my window boxes all summer and, when I am ready to bring the plants in for the winter, all I need do is take a butcher knife, cut them in half, plant each half in a separate pot filled with soil and bingo: I have two plants for the following year!

I must admit I feel a little smug when I put the ivies and the spathiphyllum in the window boxes each year and stand back to admire them. I've been using the same plants for many years. No cost and instant beauty.



## 2007 New Registrations I

When a new ivy is registered, it is photographed and described in detail in the *Ivy Journal*. This is done in order that the correct name is associated with a specific ivy. In addition, a herbarium specimen is made and deposited in the Willard Sherman Turrell Herbarium (MU), Department of Biology, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, 454045, and in the Claude E. Phillips Herbarium (DOV), Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Delaware State University, Dover Delaware, 19901-2277. The letter(s) used in parentheses after the cultivar name refer(s) to the Pierot Classification System (Pierot 1974, 1995) and *Knowing and Growing Ivy* (AIS 1997). The AIS number is an identification/verification number used by the American Ivy Society to keep track of the history of every ivy sent for identification. The first two digits are the last two digits of the year the ivy was received, and the last three digits are the sequential numbering during that year. All new cultivars are presumed sports of *Hedera helix*, unless otherwise noted.

### *Hedera helix* 'Icicle' (V, M)

By  
Russell A. Windle  
Registrar

#### **HISTORY**

'Icicle' (AIS 06-010) fig. 1 is a Variegated (V), Miniature (M) ivy in the Pierot Classification system (Pierot 1974, 1995). This ivy is being submitted for registration by Donald Nilsen, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Don purchased this ivy in 1991 at the American Ivy Society's convention in San Diego as an un-named ivy. I first saw this ivy at Don's house in 1998 and asked him about it. I knew from the first look it was something different, and Don was kind enough to give me a sample to take home to study. I grew it and started to build stock for the purpose of introduction.

Don has been an active member of the Eastern Chapter of the American Ivy Society, indispensable help with the Philadelphia Flower Show display, and an avid collector of adult ivies.

#### **DESCRIPTION**

The leaves are three to four times as long as wide, and are irregularly lobed with many leaves unlobed to leaves with one or two basal lobes. The extra lobing is more prominent with the new growth in the spring. The variegation pattern is somewhat unusual; the leaves have a white margin with a green gray center, then there is an over laying of a white wash over the whole leaf, with some of the leaves being almost all white with just a hint of green underneath.



**Fig. 1 'Icicle' (AIS 06-010) is a  
Variegated (V), Miniature (M).**

**Photo: Rachel Cobb**

Leaves are spaced closely on the stem, making long runners. This ivy is self-branching, but branching is more prolific with light pruning.

*H. h.* 'Icicle' makes a nice house plant where it can be used in pots or baskets. Out door winter hardiness has not been tested.

### **SIMILAR CULTIVAR**

*Hedera helix* 'Little Hermann' (AIS 06-019) fig. 2, a new cultivar recently found in garden centers has a similar leaf shape and variegation pattern but does not have the white wash over the leaf. It also has an irregular white margin, with some leaves having no margin, just the green gray irregular variegation pattern.

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Fig. 2 *Hedera helix* 'Little Hermann' (AIS 06-019).  
Photo: Rachel Cobb



Fig. 1 *H. cypria* 'Coon Hollow' runner showing silver venation.  
Photo: Russell Windle

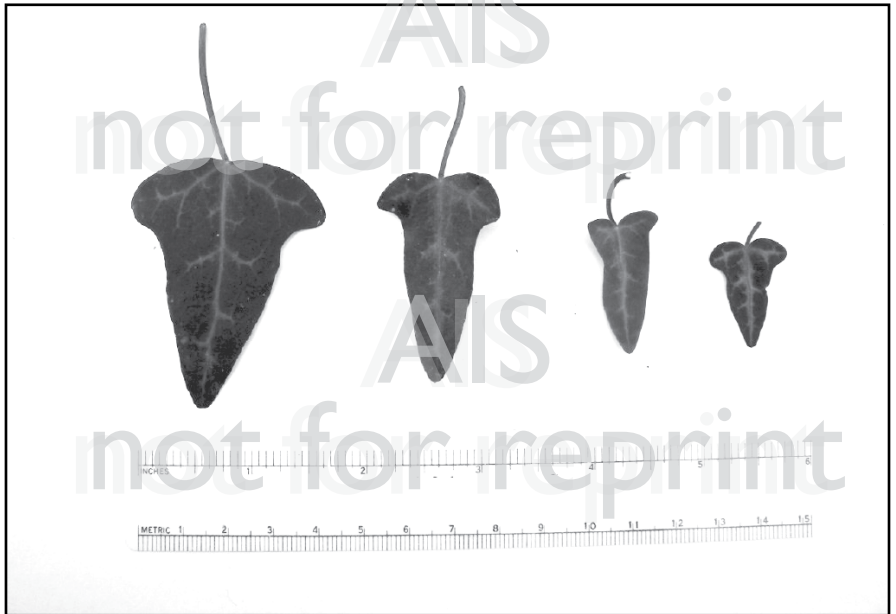


Fig. 2 *H. cypria* 'Coon Hollow' Showing size variation within same plant.  
Photo: Russell Windle

## 2007 New Registration I I

A new Ivy from Cliff L. Coon  
Freemont California

# *Hedera cypria* 'Coon Hollow' (M)

By  
Russell A. Windle  
Registrar

## HISTORY

Cliff Coon left a legacy of ivies and was kind enough to share many of his new ivies so that they would not be lost. Here is one more ivy I am pleased to introduce on behalf of my friend Cliff.

In November of 2003, Cliff sent me samples of seven, ivies most of which were adult samples, but he did send me two ivy seedlings that he had germinated out from seeds he had collected. He had sent this sample to me under his number (CLC 97-04) *H. cypria* seedling, unnamed.

I wanted to name this new ivy to honor Cliff, so I asked Lucille, his wife, if I might name it 'Coon Hollow' after Cliff's ivy business, "Coon Hollow Ivies". This would honor both Cliff and the place where the ivy came from.

Cliff and I both felt that this ivy was different from the straight species, but I had lost my stock of *Hedera cypria* so I could not compare the two until this past year when I received two separate samples, one from Erddig Hall, Wales (AIS 06-038) and one from Fibrex Nursery, U.K (AIS 06-052)

## DESCRIPTION

*Hedera cypria* 'Coon Hollow' (AIS 03-079) [CLC-97-04] Fig. 1 is a Miniature (M) ivy in the Pierot Classification system (Pierot 1975-1995). Cliff's comments on this ivy were: "*H. pastuchovii* 'Cypria' Seedling (Juvenile) (CLC-97-04) is a small-leaved, dark blue-green-gray plant that I am growing as a groundcover. I expected the leaves to grow larger; to a more typical *pastuchovii* size but so far they have been consistently small. Outstanding leaf-color and veining has remained consistent!" (Editors note: *Hedera cypria* was originally thought to be related to *H. pastuchovii*, and Cliff's sample came to him under this name. *Hedera cypria* has since been given species status.)

Leaves are small, 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide and about 1 inch long that are predominantly three lobed with the terminal lobe elongated 2 to 3 times the length of the basal lobes. The basal lobes are at right angles to the base; with the base being slightly cordate. Leaf color is a dark greenish blue, with metallic silver gray over the main veins. The

color is more intense in the winter with cool temperatures, but color is very stable year round. New growth in the spring may be larger: Fig. 2

This ivy is slow growing, but makes a nice pot, as the leaves are spaced close together. Not very self-branching, but light pruning will promote more branching.

## SIMILAR CULTIVARS

'Coon Hollow' differs from the straight species *Hedera cypria* in many ways. Fig. 3. The first is the leaf size and color: The leaves of 'Coon Hollow' are at least half the size of the species, the color is much darker and the silver venation is much more pronounced. The leaves of the species are much broader, and are almost heart shaped. The leaves are also spaced much further apart.

There are three other ivies that may be confused with *H. cypria* 'Coon Hollow'. They would be *Hedera hibernica* 'Aracena', *Hedera nepalensis* 'Marble Dragon', and *Hedera pastuchovii* 'Ann Ala'. Fig.4 *H.hib.* 'Aracena', and *H. nep.* 'Marble Dragon' both have the silver venation pattern found in 'Coon Hollow', and *H. past.* 'Ann Ala' has the overall leaf shape, but all three of these ivies are much larger in size and habit, and would not be confused when grown side by side.

Cold winter hardiness has not been tested.

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Fig. 3 Left to right *H. cyprica* 'Coon Hollow', *H. cyprica* AIS 06-038, and *H. cyprica* AIS 06-052. Comparing different samples of *H. cyprica* to 'Coon Hollow'. Photo: Russell Windle



Fig. 4 Left to right: *H. cyprica* 'Coon Hollow', *H. pastuchovii* 'Ann Ala', *H. nepalensis* 'Marble Dragon', *H. hibernica* 'Aracena'. Photo: Russell Windle

# *Hedera helix* 'Ellen Meakin' (O)

By  
Russell A. Windle  
Registrar

## HISTORY

'Ellen Meakin' (AIS 04-055, 05-040) fig 1 is an Oddity (O) ivy in the Pierot Classification system (Pierot 1974, 1995). This ivy is being submitted for registration by Tim Meakin of 56 Well Creek Rd, Outwell, Wisbech, Cambs, U.K.

Tim discovered this ivy as a fasciated sport of *Hedera helix* 'Ivalace' in Crawcrook, Tyne and Wear, U.K. sometime between 1982 and 1985. He named it 'Ellen Meakin' in 2001 to honor his Mother.

As a separate mutation, I also found a fasciated sport of Ivalace in 2003 (AIS 05-040). I have grown both ivies side by side and have found them to be identical, so they both should be considered to be the same ivy, 'Ellen Meakin'.

## DESCRIPTION

The leaves are reminiscent of 'Ivalace' being shiny dark green with raised veins, but are somewhat rounded. There are anywhere from 3, 5 or 7 lobes, and a cordate base. The leaf margin is somewhat wavy. The petioles are often twice as long as the leaf blade. Many leaves have adventitious buds at the base of the leaf, where the petiole joins the leaf. Many of these buds will actually grow into plants in their own right, Fig. 2., making this is one of the few ivies that you can actually propagate from leaf cuttings.

There is a high level of stem fasciations. Fasciations is when there is a thickening of any part of the plant, in this case it is mostly found in the stem where you have a thickening of the stem, and at times this splays out with many branches forming in a clump.

This ivy is also unique in that it is a clumping ivy, forming a mound, with no trailing or climbing shoots. It has been found that, with many fasciated ivies, they do not form the adventitious roots along the stem that are used to climb by most ivies.

## SIMILAR CULTIVARS

There is one similar cultivar *Hedera helix* 'Medusa' (AIS 88-320) Fig 3, which has the same fasciated stems and growth habit but with a more fan shaped leaf. There



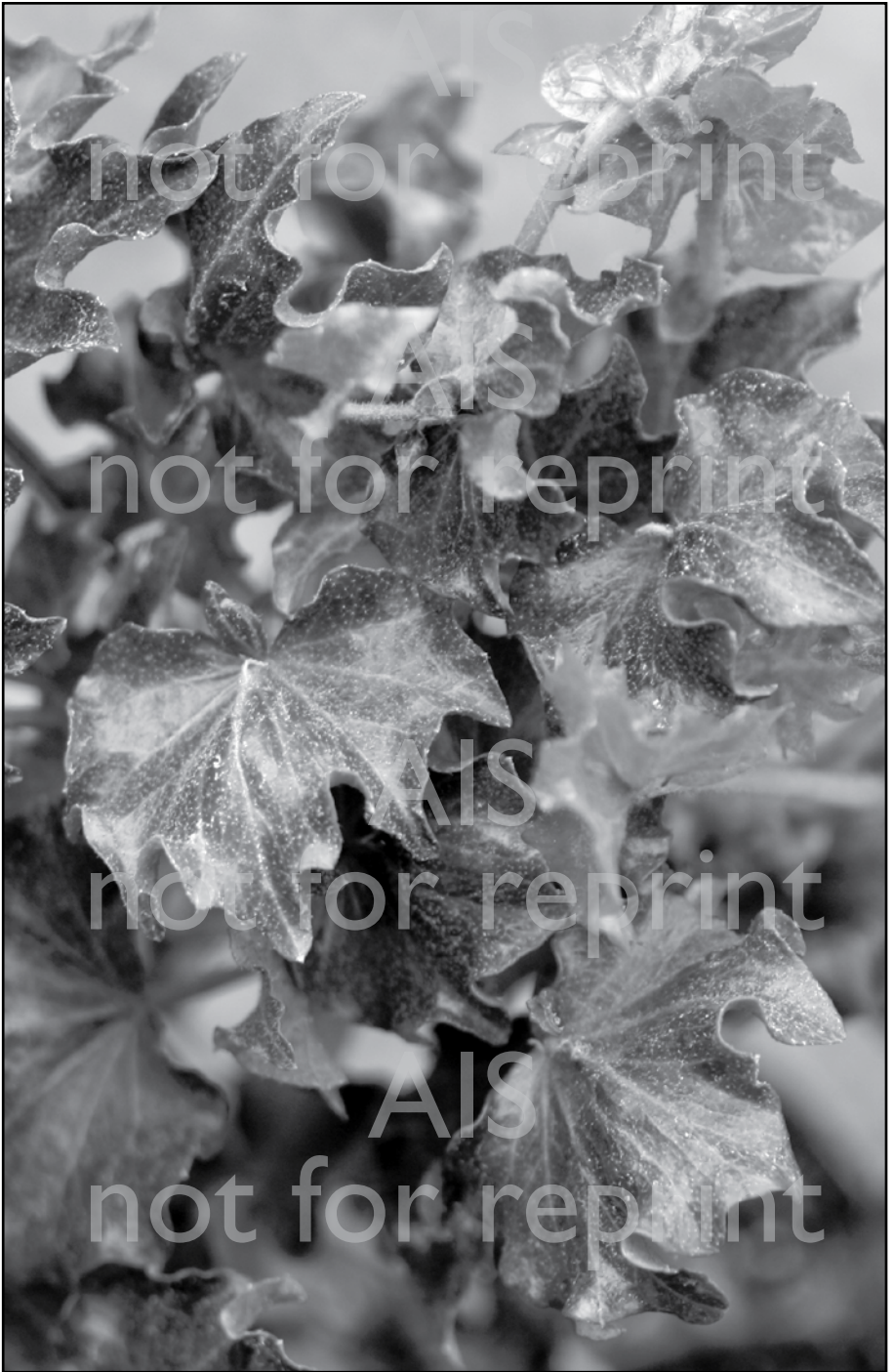


Fig. 1 'Ellen Meakin' (AIS 04-055, 05-040) is an Oddity (O).  
Photo: Rachel Cobb

have also been occasions where the adventitious buds are also found on some of the leaves but not to the same extent as with 'Ellen Meakin'.

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Fig. 2 *Hedera helix* 'Ellen Meakin' showing new plant growing out of leaf/petiole junction.  
Photo: Rachel Cobb



Fig. 3 *Hedera helix* 'Medusa' AIS 88-320.  
Photo: Rachel Cobb

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# *Hedera helix* 'Yumin' (V, BF)

By  
Russell A. Windle  
Registrar

## HISTORY

'Yumin' (AIS 88-071, 91-189) fig. 1 is a Variegated (V), Bird foot (BF) ivy in the Pierot Classification system (Pierot 1974, 1995). This ivy was submitted for registration by Brother Ingobert Heieck, Heidelberg, Germany in 1990.

Brother Heieck first sent samples ivy (AIS 88-071) of what we now know as 'Yumin' in 1988 but without a cultivar name, although under the temporary name of 'Wichtel Mut. NO. 6. This temporary designation indicated that this ivy was the sixth mutation of 'Wichtel' that he had found.

The cultivar 'Wichtel', from which 'Yumin' appeared, was a sport of 'Shamrock' (Shamrock mutant 2, Heieck 1968) that Brother Heieck registered in 1983. Later in 1993 I received cuttings of 'Yumin', from the ivy collection at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (AIS 91-189). After growing them side by side, it was determined that they were indeed the same ivy. In corresponding with Andreas Hönemann of the German Ivy Society they also have this ivy from Brother Heieck under the designation of *H. helix* 'Wichtel Bunt'. "Brunt" in German means "Colored"—or in this case, "Variegated".

The only mystery left is the name, we have no idea why Brother Heieck chose the name Yumin. In searching the name it appears to be of Chinese origin with people and places having this name. As for a German origin we can not find any. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know.

## DESCRIPTION

The leaves are irregularly three lobed with a cordate base, to some leaves almost heart shaped. There is a slight constriction at the base of the leaf, where the petiole joins the leaf. The overall size of the leaves are larger than Wichtel, but the leaves are still 1 1/2 to 2 times as long as wide, with a terminal lobe about twice as long as wide. But the leaf shape is very similar. The variegation is a gold margined leaf with an irregular green center. As the leaf matures: or in low light levels, the gold in the leaf will fade to a light green. The major veins are raised and are a pale green. This ivy is not as self-branching as 'Wichtel' but light pruning will promote more branching.

The gold color is best in the spring with the new growth, under bright light conditions and cool temperatures.



Fig. 2 All gold mutation of *H.h.* 'Yumin'.

Photo: Rachel Cobb

As with other ivies with this half and half variegation pattern, such as *Hedera helix* 'Gold Heart' and *Hedera helix* 'Gold Craft', you will commonly get a further mutation where the ivy sports to all green as in 'Gold Heart', or all gold as in 'Gold Craft'. When this happens it becomes very stable in this form and does not revert back to the half and half variegated form. 'Yumin' has been found to do this. This all gold, un-named mutation should not be considered a form of 'Yumin', but should be kept separate and if deemed a good ivy should be given a separate name. Fig. 2

Winter hardiness has not been tested here but Brother Heieck stated that it had good winter hardiness.

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## New Species of Ivy

# *Hedera rhizomatifera*

By  
Russell A. Windle  
Registrar

In Willdenowia, 34(2)-2004, p. 351-352; Stephen L. Jury has raised *Hedera helix* subspecies *rhizomatifera* to a species in its own right. It was previously described as a sub-species of *Hedera helix*, AIS Ivy Journal, April 1989, vol. 15, No. 1. It should now be written as *Hedera rhizomatifera*. Fig 1

Further studies also done by Ackerfield and Wen, 2002 on a morphometric analysis of *Hedera L.* and its taxonomic implications further show the clear separation of this plant as a separate species.

*Hedera rhizomatifera* was further described in *New Ivies from the Mediterranean area and Macronesia* in the *Plantsman*, 1993 15:115-128.

*Hedera rhizomatifera* is native to south and southeastern Spain. The rhizome, which produces minute plants at the stem end, are thought to be defense mechanism for survival against cold and drought.

I have not personally seen the rhizomes, although I have not had good samples of the plant until recently, and have not had a chance to grow them for an extended period of time. I have noticed, though, that the plants do produce an abundance of large thick fleshy white roots, not seen in most *Hedera helix*. Fig.2

*Hedera rhizomatifera* should now be considered to be the correct form for *Hedera helix* subsp. *rhizomatifera*.

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Story SL 2004 The Euro+Med treatment of *Hedera* (Araliaceae) – recent studies and a new name *Willdenowia* 34 (2) 351-352







Above: Fig. 1 *Hedera rhizomatifera* AIS 04-053  
Photo: Russell A. Windle

Left: Fig. 2 *Hedera rhizomatifera* showing the thick fleshy roots.  
Photo: Rachel Cobb

**For More information or availability for any of these ivies,  
please contact AIS at: [ivyid@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ivyid@worldnet.att.net).**

# Erddig Hall; an Oasis of Ivy

If you are an ivy lover like me, and are planning a trip to Great Britain, save time to visit Wales and Erddig Hall (editor's note: the *dd* in Welsh is pronounced as a *th*, so it is pronounced "Erthig"). Erddig Hall is located in Northeast Wales near the town of Wrexham. Erddig Hall has one of the last examples of an 18th century walled garden.

I first visited Erddig in 1993 and again in 2006. Both times I was very impressed with how well the ivy collection has been maintained and thrilled to find so many ivies going adult. Erddig Hall holds one of the two National Ivy Collections in Great Britain.

In 1977 the Royal Horticulture Society decided to collect and sort out the names of ivies. 200 stock plants were submitted and planted. This collection was judged on several occasions up to 1979. After the trials, it was hoped that the collection could be kept together to form the basis of a national collection. It was at this time that the collection was offered to Erddig. The original collection had 170 varieties along with most of the known species.

When the British Ivy Society disbanded in 1998, some of the monies left over were donated to Erddig Hall to help maintain the ivy collection. I was also informed that Ron Whitehouse of Whitehouse Ivies had also donated some newer ivies to the collection before he sold his business. I was pleasantly surprised to see one of my ivies, *Hedera helix* 'Amber Waves', as one of the ivies Ron supplied.

The ivies are planted on the North side of the walled garden and on other walls through out the grounds.

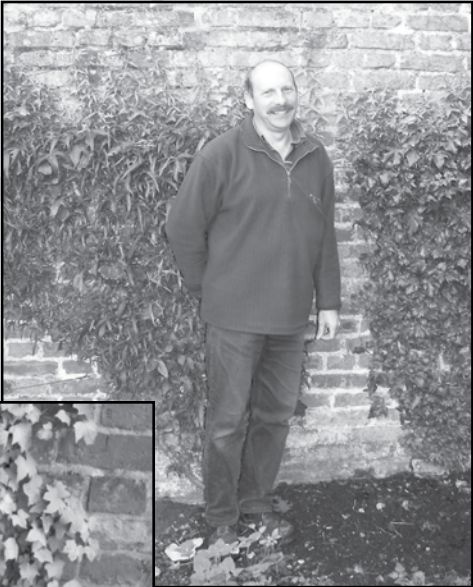
When I knew I would be going to visit Erddig, I made some inquiries and contacted the Head Gardener for Erddig, Glynn Smith, who graciously gave me a private guided tour of the ivy collection. He was also generous and let me get some samples of the adult ivies.

Although they are not intentionally letting the ivies go adult—when growing ivies up walls, even with regular pruning—you will occasionally find some adult shoots. Over the years, the collection has been re-propagated and reorganized so that like ivies are grouped together. Almost all of the ivies are nicely identified, but I was also given a list of all of the ivies with their locations. Glynn told me that the maintenance of the ivy is limited to pruning twice a year to about 5 foot high. The ground cover ivies are cut back with a rotary mower, with the blade set high, in late summer.

There is a lot more to Erddig Hall besides the ivy. There is a beautiful house which dates back to the late 1600s with additions into the late 1700s. The home and out buildings are supplied with many of the trappings one would find in the 18th and 19th centuries. It is quite a museum. Unfortunately, both times I visited Erddig, I spent so much time with the ivies I didn't have chance to see the rest.

Glynn Smith, Head Gardener,  
Erddig Hall, in front of ivy wall.

All photos: Russell A. Windle



Above: *Hedera helix*  
'Amber Waves'.

Right: *Hedera helix*  
'Gold Child'.





Editors note: At the Atlanta Chapter Symposium in August 2006, Barbara Crank demonstrated how to make a dramatic centerpiece for a table. We found it so interesting we asked her to tell us how she made it.

# Wedding Table Centerpiece *OR* Ivy Mass Arrangement

By Barbara Crank, Atlanta Chapter member

A beautiful and dramatic arrangement for a wedding or dinner party can be made using just ivy. I used a variety of ivies in varying leaf colors and shapes. Here's how it was done:



## First Step

Picture #1. I used a tapered 16 inch tall clear footed cylindrical vase.

Picture # 2. I made a horizontal grid across the vase's top using quarter inch clear floral adhesive tape. Fine silver bullion thread was used to hang individual leaves of various ivy cultivars at differing heights inside the vase, passing one end of the thread through each leaf's basal lobe, folding the thread to make a secure fastening, and then looping the other end over a grid line. Ivy branches could be hung instead of leaves. Variegated ivies with yellow on leaf undersides, such as H.h.'Goldheart' perform well in a clear vase viewed from all sides. Solid green ivy leaves are at their best when viewed only from the front side.



## Second Step

Picture #3 . For a "bowl" to go on top of the horizontal grid, I used a clear plastic shallow bowl or empty tuna can sprayed green. An oasis soaked for several hours and then, to make it secure, is taped in the shallow bowl using quarter-inch green waterproof tape.

In this arrangement, a basal collar of large green Hibernica ivy leaves were made by inserting individual leaf stems into the lower half of the oasis, overlapping the leaves so as to hide the container and grid when placed atop the vase.

Varying ivy leaf colors and shapes were then put into the oasis to emphasize the beauty and uniqueness of a primarily green design. Flower stalks of the adult ivy 'Lexington' were used as vertical line material. Choose stalks which are one to one and one-half times the height of the main container:

The other ivies used were 'Algerian', 'Gold Heart', 'Gertrud Stauss,' 'Gold Dust', 'Telecurl,' 'Ivalace', and 'Duck Foot'. Pliable green wire was used to form curving branches of 'Fan' for the cascading line material.

For stability, use a disc cut from carpet padding to cover the rim of the glass cylinder or put little dots of floral adhesive on the rim. The design is then completed by placing the dish holding the ivy mass atop the cylinder:



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