

Information and Care Instructions

Ivy Topiary

Quick Reference

- Botanical Name - Hedera helix
- Exposure - Bright, Indirect
- Indoor Placement - Bright location but not in direct sun light
- USDA Hardiness - Zone 5a-9b
- Inside Temperature - 40 - 80°F
- Min Outside Temperature - -20°F
- Plant Type - Evergreen
- Watering - Allow soil to dry out slightly before watering
- Water Amount Used -
 - 4 1/4" Pot = 1/2 cup of water
 - 5" Pot = 3/4 cup of water
 - 6 1/2" Pot = 1 1/4 cups of water
 - 8" Pot = 2 3/4 cups of water
 - 10" Pot = 5 cups of water
 - 12" Pot = 7 cups of water
 - 7 Gallon Pot = 3/4 gallon of water
- Fertilizing - Fertilize monthly

Detailed Care

Your Ivy Topiary is grown in a plastic pot and may have been transplanted into a decorative pot or simply "dropped" into a container while still in the plastic pot. The sturdy wire frame is carefully inserted into a pot of Ivy with long stems which are meticulously woven onto the frame.

Ivy does not naturally wrap itself around a frame so all weaving is done by hand.

WATERING

Water once the soil in the pot of your Ivy Topiary is dry to the touch; check frequently, especially if kept in a hot, dry spot.

When watering, use the recommended amount of water (see quick reference) for your pot size poured directly on the soil. To prevent damage to your surroundings, place your Ivy Topiary in a saucer, bowl or sink when watering. Allow the water to drain for 5 minutes. Do not allow the soil to sit in water for any more than 5 minutes, which could damage the roots. Avoid continuous use of softened water as the sodium can build up in the soil.

Sprinkling or misting the vines and leaves with water several times per week is also beneficial to keeping your plant looking good and preventing insect pests.

Fertilize lightly with a complete, quality fertilizer once a month if your plant is actively growing. Avoid over-fertilizing.

PLACEMENT OF YOUR TOPIARY

If you wish to keep your Ivy Topiary indoors, choose a spot with lots of natural light like near a north, south or east facing window. West facing windows tend to have too much direct afternoon sun. Artificial lights (e.g. lamps) do not provide enough light to keep Ivy alive unless the Topiary is placed within a few feet of the light source and illuminated for at least 10 hours per day. A location that is near a window or door that is frequently open is beneficial to keeping your Ivy Topiary healthy. For best results, after 2 or 3 weeks of being inside, it is beneficial to place outside on a covered porch or patio for a week or two, especially during the non-winter months. This will help it to resume active growing and rebuild reserves used up while indoors.

If you wish to keep your Ivy Topiary outdoors, any spot that does not receive direct afternoon sunlight is good. A sheltered porch or patio or under trees with dappled sunlight are perfect places for your Ivy Topiary to thrive. If kept in a pot, your Topiary must be protected from freezing temperatures as they will damage its root system. If you live in USDA Zone 5a to 9b you can safely plant your Topiary in the ground.

For best results, if you have a good outdoor spot to keep your Topiary as described above, keep it mostly outdoors and move it inside for periodic needs such as decorating for a party or holiday or just because you want to liven up your décor.

PEST PROTECTION

Ivy is susceptible to certain insects such as spider mites, aphids and mealybugs. The best way to treat them is to prevent them and the best way to prevent them is to frequently sprinkle the leaves and vines with clean water. During the



Ivy Topiary Detail Care Instructions Continued:



PEST PROTECTION (continued)

summer when the insects are most active it is a good idea to sprinkle your Topiary once a day and once a week give it a good rinsing under the faucet or hose. Care should be taken not to overwater the soil. Only water the soil when the plant needs to be watered.

If, despite your best efforts, one of these insects does manage to become established, you may spray your Ivy Topiary with most store-bought insecticides labeled to control the insects.

Ivy may suffer from fungal leaf spots or fungal root rot. The leaf spots are caused by too much moisture on the leaves for a long period. When sprinkling/misting your Topiary always do it in the morning or during the heat of the day while there is still time for the water to evaporate from the leaves. Root rot is caused by over watering or over-fertilizing or a combination of the two. Both of them cause the plant to become weakened and thus susceptible to attack by the fungus. Ivy prefers to be kept on the dry side, but not too dry.

KEEPING YOUR TOPIARY LOOKING GOOD

Over time the vines on your Ivy Topiary are likely to grow. It is entirely a personal choice of what to do with these vines. Some people prefer to keep the Topiary looking as it did upon arrival by trimming off unwanted growth. Others prefer to further fill in their Topiary by weaving new growth into the frame. If a vine happens to die-off, simply cut it off where it has begun to die and if needed weave another vine into the empty area. Ivy leaves have a tendency to become larger if kept in low light; if your Topiary develops some leaves that become too large for your liking, simply clip them off right next to where their petiole (leaf stem) emerges from the vine, taking care not to cut the vine itself.

REPOTTING

Your Topiary can remain in its original pot or you may re-pot it to a larger or more decorative pot if you like. Natural terra cotta pots are a good choice as they promote healthy roots, although you must check the moisture level of the soil more frequently since they dry out faster. No matter which pot you choose to use, it must have at least one good sized hole on the bottom to allow the excess water to drain out. Use the highest quality soil mix you can find that has good drainage properties (a coarse mix with large particle sizes rather than a fine/compact mix). When transplanting do not compress the soil, keeping it loose and fluffy for best rooting results and do not disturb the original root ball if possible. After transplanting, check the moisture level very carefully as it is very easy to over-or under-water a newly transplanted plant. Only transplant a healthy, growing plant. Weak plants tend to die upon transplanting.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are some of the leaves turning yellow?

Your Ivy Topiary was grown in a greenhouse with more light (duration and quality) than many households may have. If the change is too drastic, some leaves will turn yellow and drop off. New vines/leaves that are acclimated to lower light will emerge or grow in to replace these lost leaves. Unless too many leaves fall off at the same time, it is not harmful to the plant. If this does happen, the selected location is probably not suitable for Ivy. Sometimes leaf yellowing can be caused by too much direct sun or a fungal disease (usually caused by overwatering).

Why are some of the leaves turning brown or bleaching?

Your Ivy Topiary was grown in a greenhouse without direct exposure to afternoon sunlight. If you have placed your Topiary in a west facing window (sometimes south) or if you have placed it in direct afternoon sunlight outdoors it is likely being sunburned. Some leaves simply dry out and turn brown, while other stouter leaves get bleached (turn yellowish-white). They then may dry out and turn brown. Sometimes brown leaves can be caused by damage during transportation or an unfortunate snip of a clipper or more rarely a fungal root rot disease caused by overwatering.

How do I water my Topiary?

Use clean water poured directly and carefully onto the soil in the pot. Be sure to remove your Topiary from any furniture etc. when watering if you do not have it placed in a saucer as the water that drains may damage your furniture.

How often do I need to fertilize my Topiary?

If your Topiary is growing, lightly fertilize it once a month. Often in the winter you may not need to give it any fertilizer until it starts to grow again in the spring.

Can I place my Topiary in full sunlight?

No. Your topiary was grown in a greenhouse without direct exposure and can't tolerate direct afternoon sun. Affected leaves will turn brown and crispy very quickly. Direct morning sun is ok however. Also, Ivy grows under trees in its native habitat, not in direct sunlight.

What do I do if the Ivy on my Topiary grows too long?

You may trim off unwanted growth or weave it into the wire frame of your Topiary.

Can I add accessories to my Topiary?

Of course you can. You can leave it plain or you can dress it up with whatever you like to create a more festive look. Ribbon can be tied to it, bows or other accessories can be pinned on however you like. Cut flowers with individual water tubes can be attached to it or placed into the soil.

Where should I put my Topiary?

Your Topiary can be placed indoors or outdoors. In either case it needs lots of indirect sunlight. Outdoors it should be in a protected location such as a shaded porch or patio. Indoors it needs to be in a spot with lots of natural light.