



English ivy as a threat
to Virginia's trees



Tree Stewards

ARLINGTON • ALEXANDRIA



Nora Palmatier





Our trees add financial value to our properties and quality to our lives. The investment is worth it.





Ivy threatens landscaping investments, neighborhood aesthetics, and the health of our trees.

English ivy chokes trees and deprives them of necessary nutrients.

- Ivy can strangle trees, especially when it grows at the base of the trunk.
- Once ivy is in the tree canopy, it can block sunlight from the trees' leaves or needles.
- Dense ivy cover deprives the tree's bark of normal contact with air and microorganisms and competes with the tree for nutrients and water.

Ivy can cause rot and weaken branches in heavy storms.

- Thick ivy growth can accelerate rot by holding in moisture, which can also harbor mosquitoes.
- The added weight of ivy can cause mature trees to fall down in storms and strong winds.



Ivy is a threat. But we can beat it with simple landscaping work.



Arborists recommend several simple steps to protect trees from ivy infestations.





Step 1. Use garden clippers to cut ivy at the bottom around the entire trunk of all infested trees.





Tip! Wear gloves and long sleeves to avoid poison ivy.





Step 2. Make a 2 feet “life saver ring” around the base of the tree.



Step 3. Once cut, leave ivy on the tree. Do not pull it off because that could harm the tree. Ivy will gradually die back after it is cut.





Exhibit A: Ivy choking a tree.



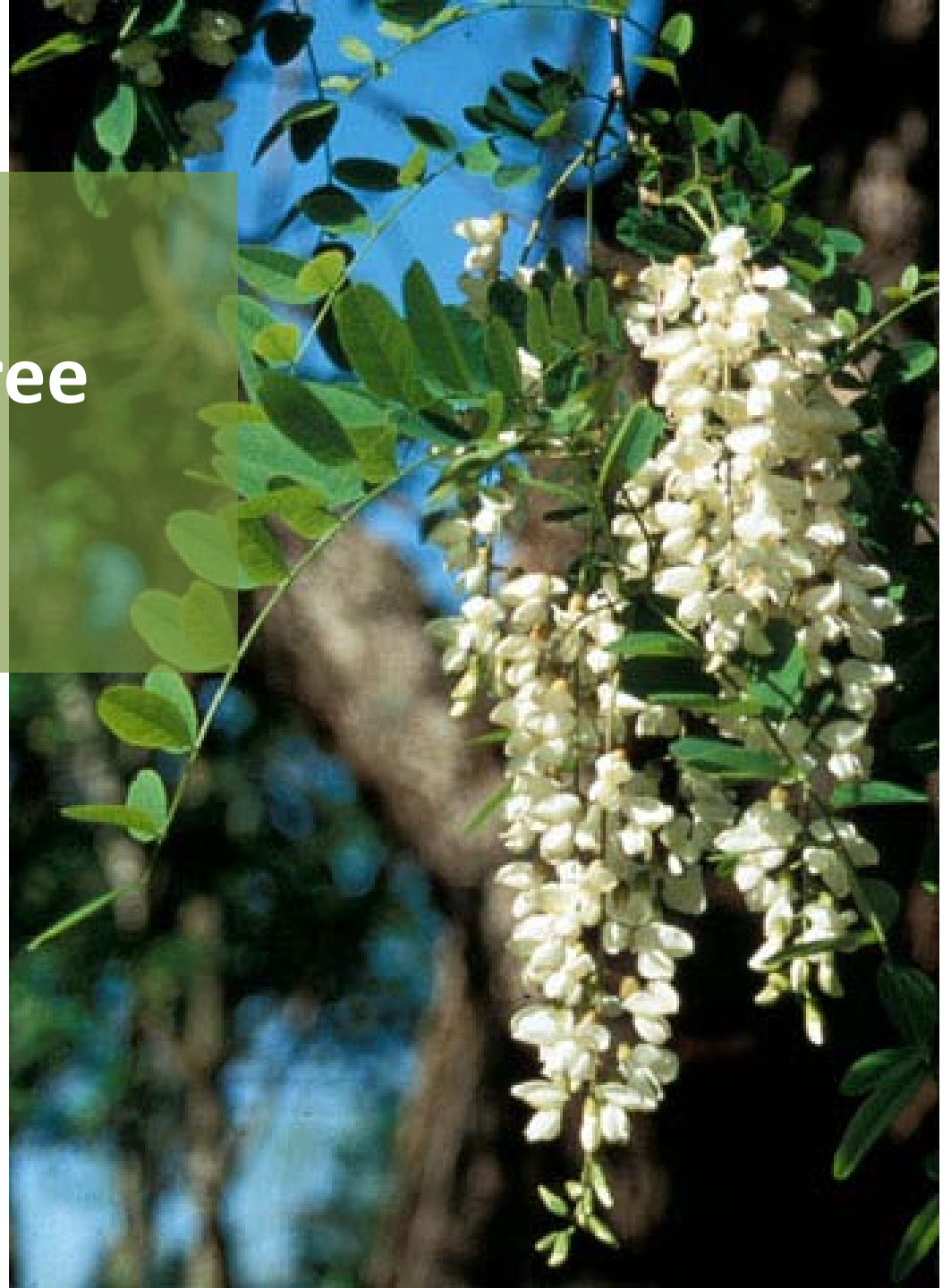


Exhibit B: Saved!





Exhibit C:
Without ivy, the tree
will have more
energy to blossom



Black Locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia*

The trees of Northern Virginia make our region special. Protect them from ivy infestations today.

Learn how to remove ivy from your trees by visiting www.TreeStewards.org or www.ARMN.org

