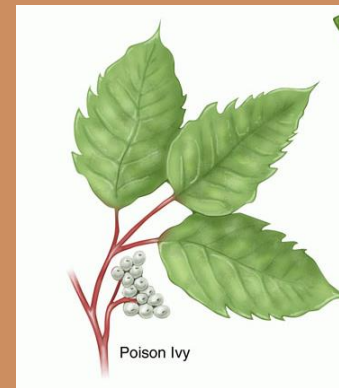




"Environmentally Conscious"

Poison Ivy Safety



Our Mission: Our mission is to provide quality services to our customers, to treat our customers and coworkers in a kind and friendly manner, and to be a positive influence in the community.

Our Values: We believe that God is the creator and sustainer of everything. Because of this, we have an obligation and responsibility to be the very best stewards of the world we live in.

We believe in the following values:

-Having honesty and integrity in all things; being trustworthy; protecting our excellent reputation in our decisions and in words and actions.

-Serving as leaders; putting others before ourselves; being humble; genuinely caring about others; being fair and pleasant in our dealings with others and living according to the Golden Rule.

-Being passionate about our work; giving 100% at all times; evaluating our efforts and striving to improve; serving our customers by solving their problems; having good work ethics, morals, standards and expectations.





There are two species of poison ivy that we find here in Michigan:

***Toxicodendron radicans* :** poison ivy that exists as a climbing vine or shrub, commonly with three leaflets to a leaf (occasionally singly lobed), and often with hairy stems or vines. Common from the eastern US to Mexico.

***Toxicodendron rydbergii* :** Rydberg's poison ivy occurs as a low non-climbing shrub with three leaflets (of varying shape) per leaf. The leaflets can have hairy undersides. Common from southern Canada to the west central US.

Both species produce smooth green berries that turn white in autumn, and have leaves that can be smooth ovals or toothed (sometimes lobed, like poison oak)

Poison Ivy Myths

Poison Ivy rash is contagious. Rubbing the rashes won't spread poison ivy to other parts of your body (or to another person). You spread the rash only if urushiol oil -- the sticky, resinlike substance that causes the rash -- has been left on your hands.

You can catch poison ivy simply by being near the plants. Direct contact is needed to release urushiol oil. Stay away from forest fires, direct burning, or anything else that can cause the oil to become airborne such as a lawnmower, trimmer, etc.

Leaves of three, let them be. Poison sumac has 7 to 13 leaves on a branch, although poison ivy and oak typically have 3 leaves per cluster.

Do not worry about dead plants. Urushiol oil stays active on any surface, including dead plants, for up to 5 years.

Breaking the blisters releases urushiol oil that can spread. Not true. But your wounds can become infected and you may make the scarring worse. In very extreme cases, excessive fluid may need to be withdrawn by a doctor.

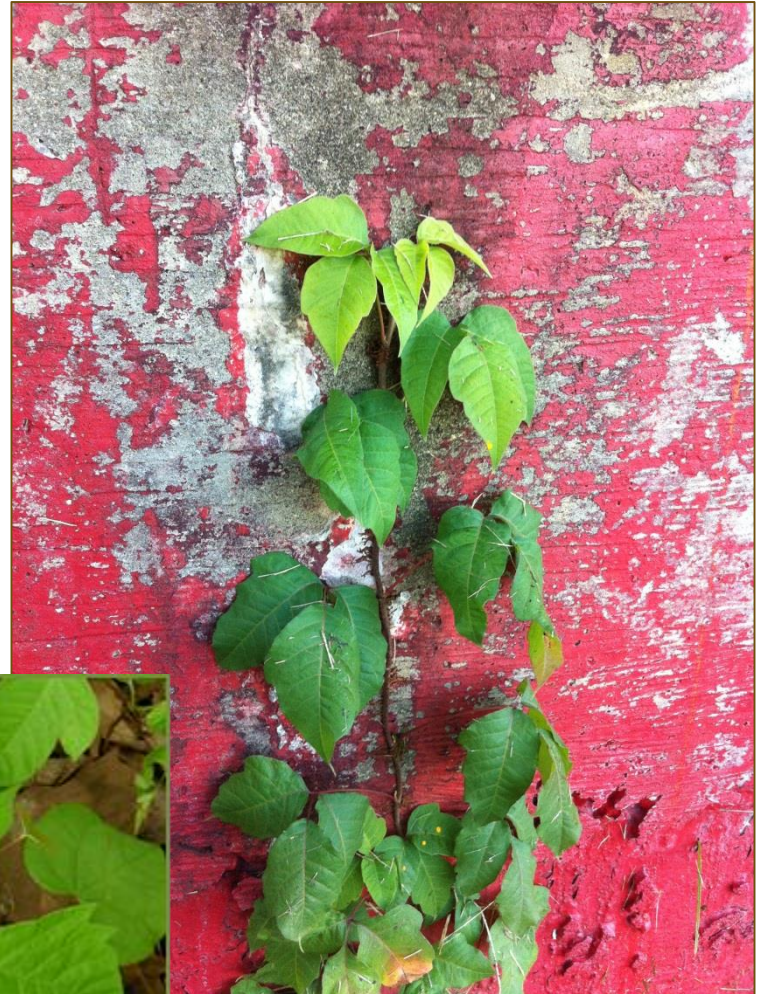
Spring

New poison ivy growing in the spring season is most often waxy and red



Summer

In summer, poison ivy can be found growing either erect from the ground or as vines climbing trees, fences, walls, along the forest floor, etc.



Autumn



Poison ivy in the fall can actually look quite pretty, as the leaves are some of the first in the forest to change to brilliant reds, oranges and yellows.

Winter



The fruit/berries of poison ivy often persist through the winter, changing from green to white in autumn, and provide a significant food source for birds.



The urushiol (rash causing oil) of the plant also persists and can even remain active for years after the plants death. So **DO NOT TOUCH** it! Even if the vines are bare! Roughly 85% of the population will have a skin reaction from contact with urushiol! Also, avoid burning poison ivy, as the smoke can be very dangerous to inhale.

Some of the most commonly misidentified plants taken for poison ivy are *wild raspberry and blackberry*, *box elder saplings*, and *Virginia creepers* (as well as the common *grape vine*, not pictured)



Raspberry Plant



Box Elder Sapling



Virginia Creeper

“Leaves of 3, let it be” doesn’t always work...

More Identification Aids



The Petiole of the top leaf is at least
Twice as long as the other two

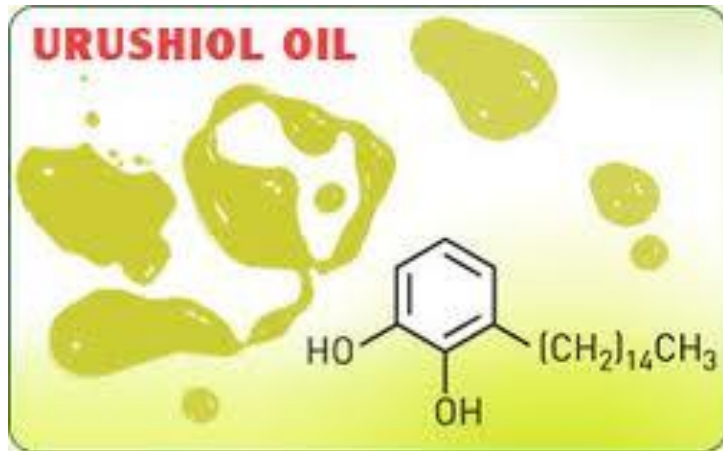
Typically on the lower two leaves, it is the lower half of the leaf
That varies in number of lobes.

MYTH: I've been in poison ivy many times and never broken out. I'm immune. **Not necessarily true.** Upwards of 90% of people are allergic to urushiol oil, it's a matter of time and exposure. The more times you are exposed to urushiol, the more likely it is that you will break out with an allergic rash. For the first time sufferer, it generally takes longer for the rash to show up - generally in 7 to 10 days.

Two different leaf forms growing together



Urushiol: (yoo-roo-she-all)

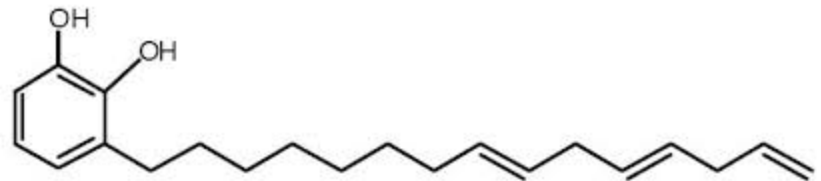


Urushiol is a yellowish oil contained within the poison ivy plant that causes rash/blistering on human skin. (has been traditionally used as a lacquer)

The human body typically requires sensitization to it once before the dreaded dermatitis shows up. Many times the 1st exposure won't cause a reaction, but every time after that will.

Basically what happens is, within an hour of exposure the urushiol forms a chemical bond with our skin cells. Our immune system then perceives the new substance as dangerous and begins to attack the cells, causing the dermatitis.

Did you Know? Urushiol is also found in cashew, mango, and pistachio plants



Urushiol: (yoo-roo-she-all)



The urushiol will turn black when exposed and oxidizes. This can also be a useful key to identifying poison ivy plants, especially ones that have been damaged or cut.

Poison Ivy, Sumac, and Oak



Poison Sumac



Poison Oak



Poison Ivy

Poison Ivy, Oak, and Sumac

- Most common allergy in the country claiming half the population
 - Sensitivity to urushiol can develop at any time
 - Solutions or cures are those that annihilate urushiol
 - Everyone appears to react slightly different to all the remedies.
 - Covered by workers compensation in some states (CA, for example)
 - First published records of poison ivy in North America date back to 1600s
 - Poison Ivy coined by Captain John Smith in 1609
 - Western Poison Oak discovered by David Douglas (1799-1834) on Vancouver Island. Douglas fir also named after him.
- <http://poisonivy.aesir.com/view/welcome.html>



Urushiol Oil is Potent

- Only 1 nanogram (billionth of a gram) needed to cause rash
- Average is 100 nanograms for most people
- 1/4 ounce of urushiol is all that is needed to cause a rash in every person on earth
- 500 people could itch from the amount covering the head of a pin
- Specimens of urushiol several centuries old have found to cause dermatitis in sensitive people.
- 1 to 5 years is normal for urushiol oil to stay active on any surface including dead plants

Poison Sumac



Never forget your PPE for Poison Ivy work !!!

White Coveralls

Rubber Boots

Rubber Gloves

Hat or Hood

Dust Mask

Safety glasses, goggles, and/or face shield



And Remember to Wash Up Afterwards

Dawn Soap / Dish Soap

Buckets

Tecnu Poison Ivy Soap

Zanfel Cream

Use a cool/cold water

Supply



Herbicides we use to battle Poison Ivy

In sensitive areas and ornamentals:

- Glyphosate
- Triclopyr



In less sensitive areas and Industrial sites:

- Glyphosate
- Triclopyr
- Picloram & 2,4-D
- Aminopyralid

Good Sites to Visit for Poison Ivy Identification

<https://www.poison-ivy.org/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/plants/>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/poison_ivy_e2946

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/Knox/horticulture%20%20urban%20forestry/fda%20poisonivy090208.pdf>

<https://www.iwu.edu/physical-plant/tailgate/grounds-tailgate/april-poison-ivy-oak-sumac.pdf>