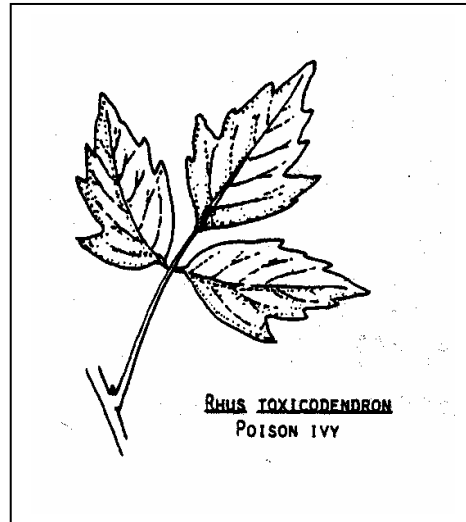


Fact Sheet on Poison Ivy



Leaves of three, let them be



Facts:

- Poison ivy and its similar cousins (poison oak and poison sumac) are normally observed growing low to the ground. Average height is fifteen inches to three feet in height.
- Mature vines growing upward on a tree and are light gray and have thousands of hair like fibers (two inches long and as wide as three inches) and can also cause the rash.
- Poison ivy rash occurs if contact is made with the *urushiol oil* (pronounced oo-roo-she-all) from the plant. This can be done by lawn mowers, weed eaters flinging plant material airborne and also by burning.
- Species misidentified as poison ivy are native Boxelder, Dewberry, Ragweed, and Virginia creeper.
- Poison ivy plants go dormant in the late fall, losing leaves. Stems and with dead plants (up to five years) still capable of creating a rash.
- Rash appears as a reddish bumps and later may blister. Minor itching, pain swelling and oozing may occur. First time exposure to poison ivy symptoms may not occur for several days. In cases of severe exposure always consult your physician.

Procedures:

- The best protection is to avoid poison ivy in work areas, if possible. Report symptoms immediately!
- Inspect work area first and identify poison ivy locations. Review pictures or sketches, noting identifying characteristics. Three leaves, reddish stem, location of plant.
- Apply poison ivy lotion or block. Use Tecnu if contact is made with plant as soon as practical.
- Wear long sleeves and long pants, wear work gloves, when cutting brush or trees near poison ivy.
- Hand and eye protection may also be needed when poison ivy vines are at eye level.
- Clean tools with detergents and water to prevent accidental contact. Wash cloths exposed to poison ivy separately.