

Poisonous Plants

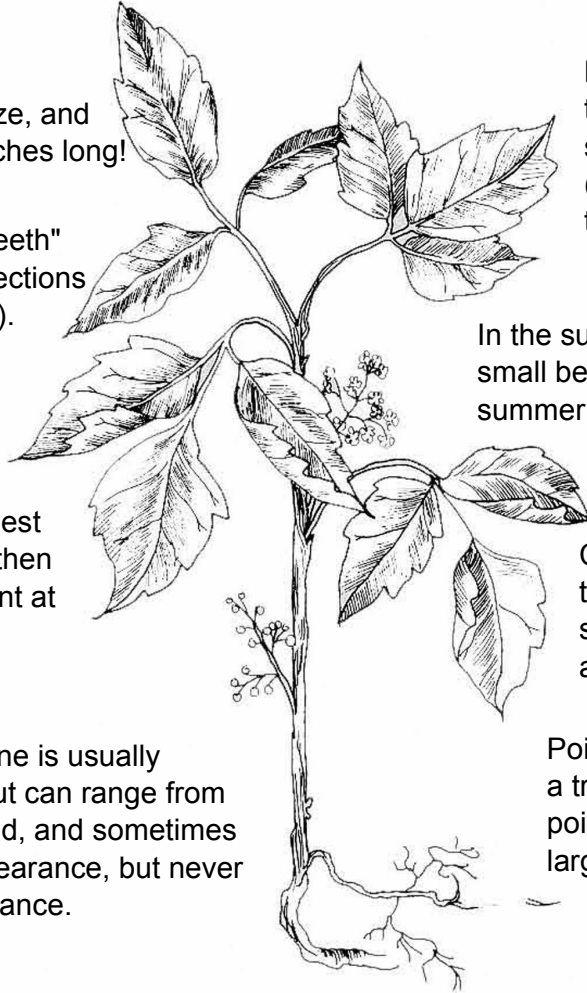
Poison Ivy Identification

Leaves vary in size, and can be up to 8 inches long!

Leaves often have "teeth" on them (little imperfections jutting out of the side).

Leaves are widest towards base, then narrow to a point at the end.

The poison ivy vine is usually reddish-green, but can range from bright green to red, and sometimes has a "furry" appearance, but never a "fleshy" appearance.



Most leaf clusters will be clusters of three - two across from one another, and the third straight out, with a longer middle stem. (Some leaf clusters will have up to 9 leaves, though!)

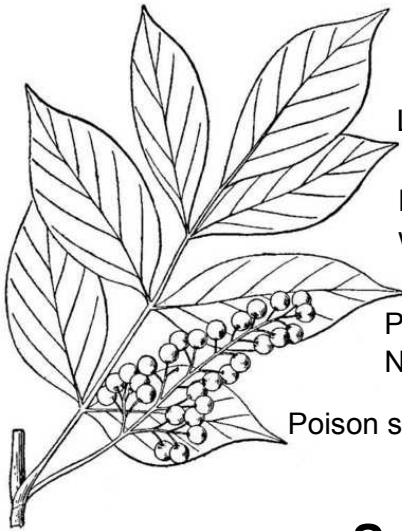
In the summer, poison ivy will produce small berries that are green in the summer, and white towards the fall.

Color of the leaves can be from matte green to shiny red, depending on the season, and sometimes is green with reddish areas. They are often at least a little shiny.

Poison Ivy is a vine. It has no symmetry like a tree would, and no trunk. Only very small poison ivy plants can stand on their own, large plants need to climb up something.

Poison ivy NEVER has: thorns, serrated leaves, a prickly stem, or bark.

Poison Sumac Identification



Poison sumac grows as a shrub, up to 15 feet tall.

Leaves come in clusters of 7 to 13 smooth-edged leaves.

Like poison ivy, leaves can be green, red, or green with red splotches.

Poison sumac prefers to grow in and around swamps. NON-poison sumac prefers well-drained soil.

Poison sumac has white berries. NON-poison sumac has red berries.

Symptoms and Treatment

Symptoms: Itchy skin where the plant touched your skin, red streaks or general redness where the plant brushed against the skin, small bumps or larger raised areas (hives), blisters filled with fluid that may leak out. Serious cases may cause swelling of the face, mouth, neck, genitals, or eyelids, and large, oozing blisters.

First aid: Wash the affected area with water immediately after contact. Use wet compresses and soak area in cool water. Nonprescription antihistamines and calamine lotion also may help relieve symptoms.