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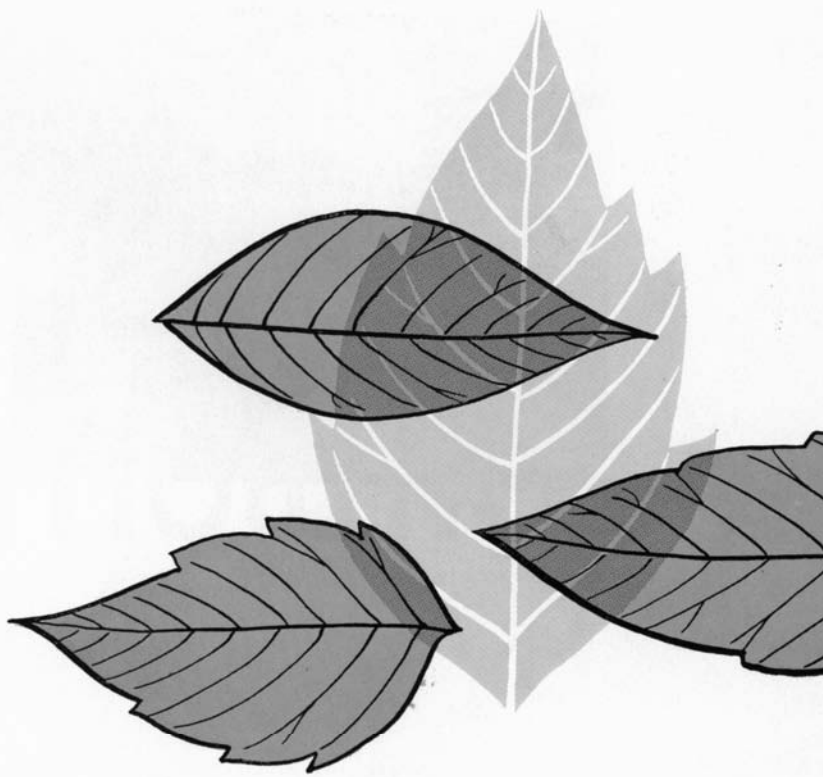
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CONTROLLING POISON IVY



EACH YEAR MANY PEOPLE who enjoy the outdoors come in contact with poison ivy. Anyone affected by the poison from this plant will agree that there is a need for controlling its growth near homes, camps, parks, beaches, and other areas where people are likely to encounter it. Fortunately, poison ivy can be easily eradicated by today's chemical weed killers. This circular shows you how to recognize poison ivy and discusses the simple and inexpensive means needed to control it.

IDENTIFICATION OF POISON IVY

Learn to identify poison ivy by studying pictures and descriptions, and by actually observing it in its various forms.

Poison ivy is a perennial woody plant that may vine on fence walls or trees, may spread along the ground, or appear as an erect shrub. There is much variation in the way it grows, and in the appearance of the leaves. Each compound leaf is made up of three leaflets. These may be glossy or dull green and are each 2 to 4 inches long. The edges may be either smooth, toothed, or somewhat lobed. Such variations occur even on the same plant.

Small greenish-white flowers appear in the spring, and by late summer clusters of white berries are often seen; these may remain attached during the winter and help to identify the plant after the leaves have fallen. Each waxy white berry is about $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter and has distinct lines marking the outer surface, somewhat like a peeled orange. Because some plants produce only male flowers, the berries may not always be found.

New plants can come from seed, which may be carried by birds, although poison ivy usually spreads by creeping stems and roots. Stems are usually small, but may grow to five inches in diameter.

Other plants such as the harmless Virginia creeper (woodbine) are sometimes mistaken for poison ivy. Virginia creeper has five leaflets radiating from one point of attachment, and blue berries which distinguish it from poison ivy with its three leaflets and white berries. Although poison ivy shows much variation in the size and shape of the leaflets, there are always three of them. Remember the old saying, "leaflets three, let it be."

POISONING

The skin irritant of poison ivy is a substance found in all parts of the plant, including the roots and fruit. The danger of poisoning is

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greatest in spring and summer when the sap is abundant, although the plant may cause poisoning in the fall and winter as well.

A very small quantity of the poison is capable of producing severe inflammation, and can be transferred from one object to another. Clothing, garden tools, and pets may become contaminated and serve as sources of infection. The toxin may also be carried in smoke from burning poison ivy plants.

Some people are more susceptible to poisoning from poison ivy than others, although apparently there is no such thing as absolute immunity. Persons who consider themselves immune may become susceptible after sufficient exposure.

Remedies are available which help give some relief, but there seems to be no absolute quick cure for all cases of poison ivy. It is always advisable to consult a physician in serious cases.

CONTROL

Modern weed killing chemicals (herbicides) offer the easiest and safest method of controlling poison ivy. The herbicides mentioned here are safe when handled properly, and are very effective. They should not be allowed to contact desirable plants. Spraying should be done on a quiet day when there is no danger of the wind carrying the chemical to other plants. In all cases, directions on the label of the container should be read and followed.

Amitrole (3-Amino-1,2,4-Triazole)

Amitrole is a chemical which is particularly effective on poison ivy. It is available under such trade names as Amino Triazole, Weedazol, and Poison Ivy Killer.

Aerosol cans containing amitrole are available and are convenient for treating small patches. When treating smaller areas with a compressed air sprayer, mix three level tablespoons of the commercial preparation containing 50 percent amitrole with one gallon of water. For large areas mix 1 pound of the 50 percent amitrole preparation in 25 gallons of water.

Amitrole may be applied any time after the plants have made their early spring growth and the leaves have reached their full size. Treatment should not be attempted after the leaves have turned yellow. Spray until the plants are thoroughly wet, but do not let amitrole contact desirable plants. Where this danger exists amitrole can be applied to ivy leaves with a long-handled brush.

Amitrole is the ideal treatment for poison ivy, but on certain occasions one of the following chemicals will be appropriate.

Mixtures of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T

"Brushkiller" is the name commonly applied to mixtures of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. (The mixture of both chemicals is more effective on poison ivy than 2,4-D alone.) Brushkiller is convenient for treating poison ivy that is growing among other undesirable woody plants that are to be killed at the same time. It is less likely than amitrole to damage grasses, but avoid using 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T near desirable broad-leaved plants which might be damaged by drifting vapors.

Apply brushkiller when poison ivy is in full leaf in the late spring or summer. If regrowth occurs repeat the treatment. The following table tells you how to mix brushkiller sprays.

To this many gallons of water	Add this much Brushkiller (4 pounds of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T acid equivalent per gallon)
1.....	2 tablespoons
3.....	6 tablespoons
25.....	1½ pints
100.....	3 quarts

A sprayer that has been used for brushkiller should not be used for spraying ornamentals or crops sensitive to these weed killers.

Ammonium Sulfamate (Ammate)

Ammonium sulfamate has been a popular chemical for treating poison ivy, but it is gradually being replaced by amitrole. It does not evaporate and therefore presents less hazard to nearby plants than 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T brushkillers. It kills most vegetation and sterilizes the soil for several months; it is a relatively expensive chemical when used for large areas.

A solution for spraying or sprinkling ammonium sulfamate is made by mixing 1 pound of dry chemical with 1 gallon of water. Apply it to the fully developed leaves at the rate of 1 to 2 gallons on a square rod (16½ x 16½ feet) of vegetation. Since ammonium sulfamate is corrosive, avoid contact with the skin and wash out spray equipment thoroughly.

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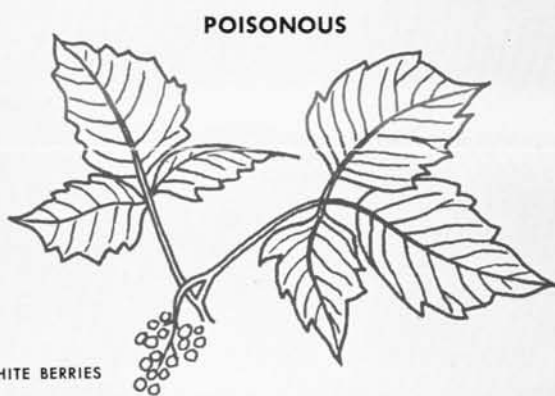
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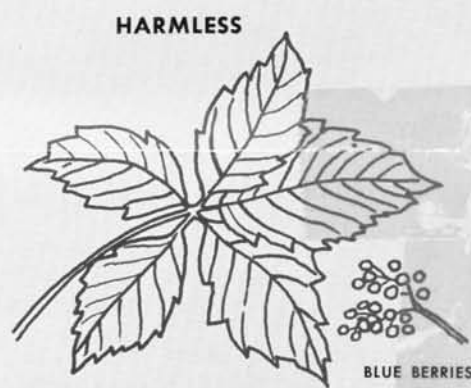


TOOTHED



POISONOUS

POISON IVY



HARMLESS

VIRGINIA CREEPER



HOW TO RECOGNIZE POISON IVY

- Each leaf made up of three leaflets
- Each leaflet 2 to 4 inches long
- Edges may be either smooth, toothed, or lobed
- White flowers in spring on some plants
- Waxy white berries on some plants in summer
- Plant grows as shrub, vine, or along the ground

CHEMICALS FOR CONTROLLING POISON IVY

- Amitrole
- Mixtures of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T (Brushkiller)
- Ammonium Sulfamate (Ammate)