

Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)



Identifying Poison Ivy

- Grows in a variety of habitats, but is most commonly found on the edges of wooded areas
- Woody vine with compound leaves comprised of three leaflets
- The edges of the leaves may be smooth, toothed, or lobed
- In June and July there are green flowers. Fruits are small, white berries
- Plants may occur as single plants, in bunches, or as climbing vines, and can often turn bright red and yellow in the fall

If you touch poison ivy:

- The toxin is an oily compound present in all parts of the plant. If you touch any part of the plant, immediately wash with cold water and soap
- The oil can be carried on clothing, tools, pets, and in smoke, and it retains its toxicity for long periods
- The toxin causes inflammation and swelling, accompanied by painful irritation and blisters
- Symptoms usually occur within 12 to 24 hours after contact with the plant, but sometimes may not appear until 3 to 4 days after exposure
- Remember the old saying, “**Leaves of three, let it be**”

