

POISON IVY

How to identify and protect yourself

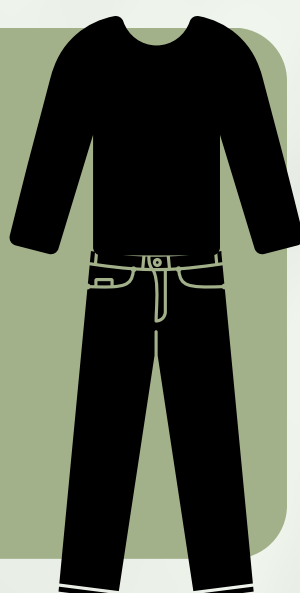


RECOGNIZING POISON IVY

It can grow as a vine or small shrub trailing along the ground or climbing on low plants, trees and poles. Each leaf has three glossy leaflets, with smooth or toothed edges. Leaves are reddish in spring, green in summer, and yellow, orange, or red in fall. May have greenish-white flowers and whitish-yellow berries.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Wear long sleeves, long pants tucked into boots, and impermeable gloves.



WASH YOUR GARDEN TOOLS AND GLOVES REGULARLY

After use, clean tools with rubbing alcohol or soap and lots of water. Wear disposable gloves during this process.

WASH YOUR PET IF IT MAY HAVE BRUSHED UP AGAINST IT

Use pet shampoo and water while wearing rubber gloves, such as dishwashing gloves. Most pets are not sensitive to poison ivy, but the oil can stick to their fur and cause a reaction in someone who pets them.



APPLY AN IVY BLOCKER TO YOUR SKIN

If you know you'll be in an area with lots of underbrush, this can give you an extra layer of protection. It's meant to be used along with long pants, gloves, and other clothing. You'll find these non-prescription products online and in stores.

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