



Tips for Managing Poison Ivy

Description

- Woody perennial. Grows as an erect or trailing shrub or vine.
- Compound leaf with three 2-4 inch long pointed leaflets. Two opposite leaflets with larger middle leaflet.
- Leaves alternate on stems.
- Leaves glossy or dull green in the summer and red in the fall.
- Leaves hairy or smooth and lobed or toothed.
- Yellow or green flowers and white berries in mid-summer.



First Aid & Prevention

Urushiol, the chemical that causes the allergic reaction, can penetrate the skin within minutes. The rash occurs much later.

- Wash exposed skin with cool water and soap as soon after contact as possible.
- Wear plastic gloves over cotton gloves, long pants, long sleeves, and boots.
- Apply an over-the-counter skin-barrier product that contains bentoquatam before going outdoors.
- Thoroughly clean all tools and anything else that may have come into contact with the plant. The chemical can remain active for many years, even after the plant dies.

Management

- Hand-pull or cut at the base and remove the plant, preferably when small or in the winter when plants are dormant.
- Remove the entire root system to prevent sprouting from the remains.
- Bury the plants. NEVER BURN POISON IVY PLANTS! Lungs are very sensitive to urushiol.

Least Risk Pesticides

Application of herbicides is most effective in the late summer or early fall when plants are storing nutrients in their roots. Carefully follow label instructions and use care when applying, as these herbicides will kill other plants.

Further Management Options

Contact the Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office (1-800-287-0274), your county Extension office, or visit <http://www.gotpests.org/>.

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<http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/ipmcouncil>

*Promoting least risk pest control for
a greener environment.*

July 2010