



POISON IVY AND OTHER HAZARDOUS PLANTS

Plenty of Scouts and Scouters like to be able to identify different plants when in the bush, but there are some plants that are more important to know than others. Here are some tips to help you avoid hazardous plants on your next outing.



BEWARE

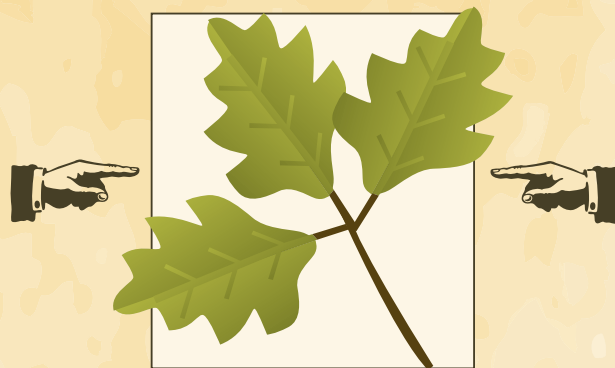


WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

- Leaves like oak leaves
- Grows as a vine or shrub

WHERE IT'S FOUND:

- Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands



POISON OAK

WHAT TO DO:

- Wash with soap and cold water
- Wash clothes in hot, soapy water (wear gloves!)
- Dry clothes in sunlight
- Treat with calamine lotion and cold compresses
- Don't scratch!



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BEWARE

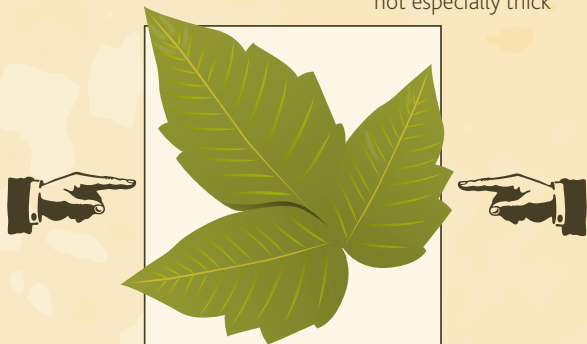


WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

- "Leaves of three, let it be"
- Bright green, almond-shaped leaves
- Centre leaf is larger than the other two
- Trailing vine or short woody stalks

WHERE IT'S FOUND:

- Every province in Canada, except for Newfoundland and Labrador
- Mostly along shorelines and roadsides, or in forest that's not especially thick



POISON IVY

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- Dry clothes in sunlight
- Treat with calamine lotion and cold compresses
- Don't scratch!



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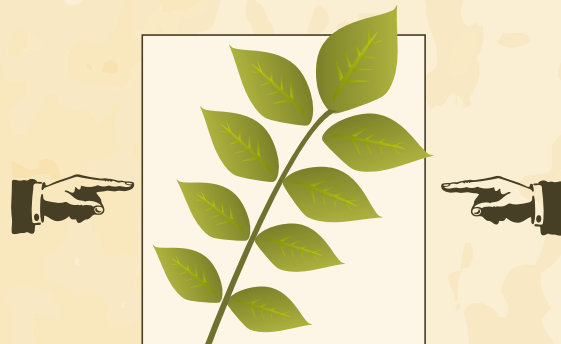


WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

- Shrub
- Seven to thirteen leaves on a stem
- Leaves have smooth edges and pointed tips

WHERE IT'S FOUND:

- Southern Central and Eastern Canada
- Swamps



POISON SUMAC

WHAT TO DO:

- Wash with soap and cold water
- Wash clothes in hot, soapy water (wear gloves!)
- Dry clothes in sunlight
- Treat with calamine lotion and cold compresses
- Don't scratch!



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BEWARE



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

- Up to over five metres in height
- Large clusters of white flowers, similar to Queen Anne's Lace

WHERE IT'S FOUND:

- Reported in most provinces
- Roadsides and ditches



GIANT HOGWEED

WHAT TO DO:

- Wash with soap and cold water
- Consult medical professionals if burning rash persists



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BEWARE



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

- About a metre tall
- Branched, flowering plant
- Yellow flowers, similar to Queen Anne's Lace.

WHERE IT'S FOUND:

- Everywhere in Canada, except Nunavut
- Fields, meadows, trailsides, etc



WILD PARSNIP

WHAT TO DO:

- Wash with soap and cold water
- Consult medical professionals if burning rash persists



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