

Poison Ivy *How to Avoid and Eradicate*

Jungle Taming, LLC • www.JungleTaming.com • (803) 463-2655

Poison ivy is found all across South Carolina, and 70% of individuals are sensitive to the oil (urushiol) produced by the plants leaves, flowers, berries and vines. Reactions to contact with poison ivy can occur as early as four hours after contact and up to 10 days later. The oil of the plant can be transferred to objects (clothing and pets, for example) and remains active for years. Even in winter, when the deciduous plant is reduced to a mere vine, the urushiol is present and will cause dermatitis. The itchy, oozing rash can last from one to four weeks.



Poison ivy vine in winter

RECOGNIZING POISON IVY



It is important to recognize poison ivy in all its presentations to avoid contact. Poison ivy can appear as a low growing ground vine, a small mounded shrub or as a climbing tree vine. It is commonly found along roadsides, and in most wooded areas.

In the spring and summer, the leaves are green, and clustered along the vine in threes. The leaves are almond-shaped and can range from a very pale green in early spring, to a deep shiny green when fully mature in later spring and summer.



Leaves can be shiny or dull, even on the same plant.



The berries are dangerous too!

Poison ivy flowers in May through July, producing small, yellowish blooms that change into whitish berries by autumn.

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Poison ivy leaves can emerge red in spring before changing to green.

And like other deciduous plants, the leaves turn yellow and red in autumn.



REMOVING POISON IVY

Extreme caution is necessary when removing poison ivy. The vines can be pulled from the ground, repeatedly cut back or treated with herbicide. Gloves and full-length protective clothing should be worn. Gloves should be discarded after use, and tools should be washed with alcohol to remove the urushiol oil. If skin contact occurs with any part of the plant, rinsing immediately with cool water may prevent dermatitis.

Individuals with high sensitivity to the plant should consider hiring a professional landscaper to handle removal of poison ivy.

About Jungle Taming, LLC

Jungle Taming is an upscale yard and garden restoration company that specializes in pruning, cultivating and uncovering hidden beauty from overgrown landscapes. Jungle Taming regularly handles poison ivy removal.

Owner Bill Kunze, certified in Landscape Management, has over 15 years of hands-on experience in the Midlands area.

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