

Poison Ivy

Leaflets three, let it be!

Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) poses risks in Middlesex County as an irritant to recreational forest users. It can be found along trails and forest edges so it is not uncommon to pass by Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) while out exploring parks and woodlands. The oils from Poison Ivy can cause rashes and irritation when in contact with skin. It is best to wear pants, avoid contact with plants that have leaves in groups of three, and keep track of where pets wander.

Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) is a shrub plant that grows wherever its roots take hold, however, it is most observed in fields, forest edges, and fence lines. It's ability to crowd-out and spread causes it to grow in dense populations if left undisturbed. The plant contains oils that can cause rashes when in contact with skin.

Identification:

Leaves come in leaflets of three and are bright green in summer, turning red-orange in the fall. The central leaflet has a much longer stem than its accompanying leaflets.



Photo by Government of Ontario

The fruit are whitish-yellow and contain one seed.



Photo by Government of Ontario

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