

How to Identify Poison Ivy, Oak, and Sumac

Anyone who has ever had an encounter with poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac knows that the best way to deal with them is to avoid them altogether. Read more to learn how to identify these irritating plants

Identification



Poison Ivy

Poison Ivy has three green leaves that grow on each branch. Often times, these leaves are shiny, but not always. Poison ivy can grow as a vine or as a shrub. Its berries are white. It can be found widely spread throughout the United States and Canada.



Poison Oak

Poison Oak also has three green leaves that grow on each branch. These leaves resemble the leaves of an oak tree, though the edges have a more rough cut to them. Poison Oak's berries are also white. It can grow in vine or shrub form. The Eastern variety of poison oak thrives up and down the east coast and inland all the way to parts of Texas. Pacific poison oak grows along the Pacific coast.



Poison Sumac

Poison Sumac can grow upwards of ten green leaves per stem. The stem of this plant is red. Sumac's berries are green. It can grow in the form of a shrub or a tree. Poison Sumac's habitat is up and down the whole East coast.

Tips & Warnings

- If you do happen to come into contact with one of these plants, take a shower or go swimming as soon as you can to try and rinse the oil off your skin.
- If you develop a rash from one of these plants, you need to apply Calamine or Caladryl.
- Put your bottle of Calamine in the fridge before applying, it relieves the itch right away.
- Benedryl will help relieve the itching also.
- Leaves of 3, let them be!