

poison ivy

Toxicodendron radicans

FEATURES

Poison ivy may be a vine or a shrub. Its leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each leaf has three leaflets, the central leaflet on a longer stalk than the other two. The leaves have a shiny or oily appearance. Small green or white flowers are borne in loose, long clusters at the base of the leaf. The white fruits are spherical.

BEHAVIORS

Poison ivy grows in waste areas, woods and along stream banks. Poison ivy climbs by sending out many short rootlets, or aerial roots, that attach the plant to a tree or other structure. A liquid produced by the leaves may cause irritation, a rash and/or swelling in humans. Birds and some other animals eat the fruits and disperse the seeds in their waste material.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Sapindales
Family: Anacardiaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE





plant



berries

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vine and aerial roots



fall leaves



flowers

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams; swamps

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge