

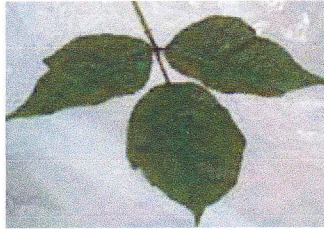


# BACK DOOR READING FROM YOUR HEALTH MINISTRIES



## POISON IVY

Leaves of three—let it be!



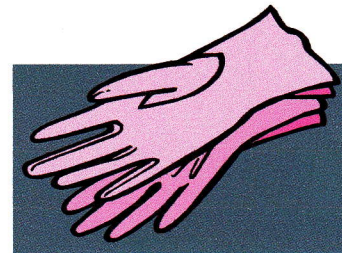
## RHUS TOXICODENDRON

The name says it all!

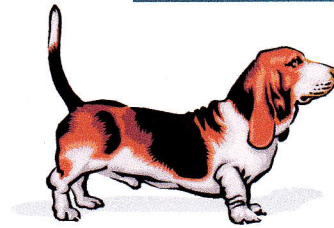
All parts of the plant contain an oily resin called urushiol. If not washed off in about 10 minutes, it bonds with the skin and causes an intensely itchy rash of blisters.



When Poison Ivy is burned, the oil is carried in the smoke and can cause life-threatening swelling in the airway.



To get poison ivy, one must be in contact with the resin. The resin can stay potent on garden gloves or tools for years, infecting the unwary. Pets may also bring in resin on their fur.



## FUN FACT

Urushiol is found in raw cashew shells.



The only way to catch poison ivy from a person is to contact their exposed skin before the urushiol has bonded. The fluid in the blisters does not contain resin and cannot spread poison ivy.



Poison ivy rash will go away by itself in time. To relieve the itch, use calamine lotion, or the juice of jewelweed (impatiens)—especially the white ones. Tannic acid is also soothing; it is available in commercial preparations or just use a moistened tea bag. Cortisone cream may help. Orally, benedryl may give relief. Medical care is needed if the rash becomes infected.

## FUN FACT

Only humans get poison ivy; no livestock or pets!

