

1. Poison Ivy

Dr. Philip C. Walker
Memorial
Botanical Trail



Bare Stems in
Early Spring



Green Leaves in
the Late Spring



Berries in Spring



Summer Thicket



Fall Leaves

Poison ivy (*Rhus radicans*) is a well-known plant containing an oil that causes inflammation of the skin. All parts of the plant are dangerous and it is beneficial to remember the old saying "leaflets three, let it be." Any direct contact with the oil or with the smoke from burning poison ivy can harm susceptible persons.

The plant can take on several different forms including an erect shrub, trailing vine and climber. The 3-parted leaves may be somewhat reddish but this occurs only in young or dying leaves. Although harmful to humans, the fruits of poison ivy are eaten by over 60 bird species.

