

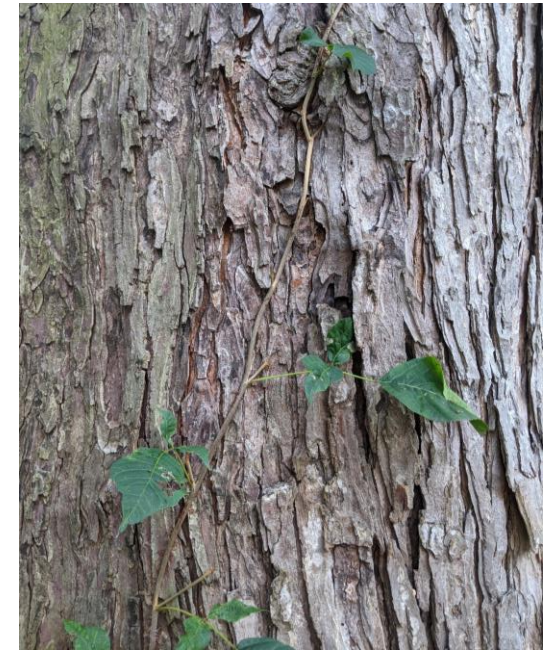
Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)

Native. Source of food for wildlife, but a skin irritant to humans.

Trifoliate compound leaf (leaf has 3 leaflets). Leaf shape can vary, but often has some toothing on the margin. Green and slightly glossy.

Grows either on the ground or as a vine on tree, reddish brown in color and getting as thick as a person's thigh. Look for hairy roots along the vine anchoring it to the tree.

The thicker vines often produce long branches of leaves extending outward from the tree trunk.



Vine growing vertically up along tree, not wrapping around the trunk



Note the Aerial roots gripping tree bark

Poison Ivy/Oak: Safety tips and awareness

- The compound Urushiol is found in all parts of the plant and most humans react to contact, causing itchy skin rashes that last for weeks
- Washing clothes in hot water denatures the urushiol, so it will no longer affect you.
- If you've made contact, try to wash immediately! Avoid touching your face when you have been outdoors.
- **Suggested products by other ReForesters:**
 - Oral Ivy (preventative), Tecnu (removing oil) and Calagel (rash relief).
 - Video on poison ivy rash prevention: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oyoDRHpQK0>
 - Article on virtues of poison ivy: <https://fow.org/the-perks-of-poison-ivy/>
- Be aware that there are other plants in the genus that give you rashes, like Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron pubescens*), which often appears like an oak tree seedling (look for trifoliate leaves).
- Be careful digging in the soil, the roots often have the highest concentration of urushiol. Wear gloves and wash thoroughly after exposure



Poison Oak



Take care around trees, as the vines will be embedded in the bark and easy to accidentally touch.