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Toqaqiw (It is Autumn)

September 2014

Brenda Commander - Tribal Chief
 Susan Young - Editor

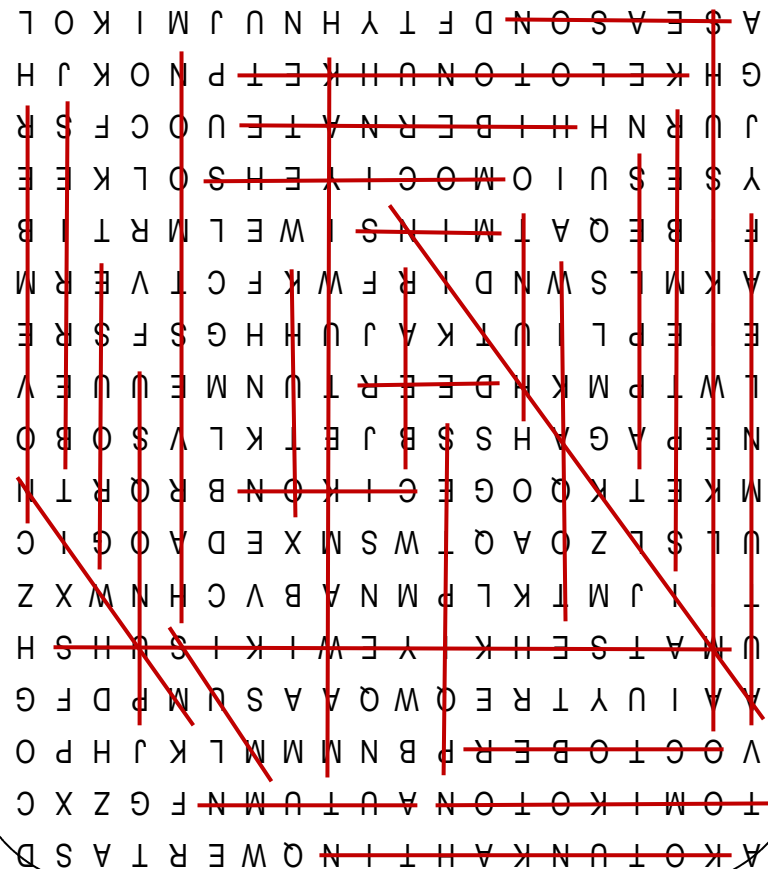
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A Fond Farewell

With the arrival of September we see the leaves starting to turn colors, the temperature dropping over night and we find ourselves saying goodbye to our Water Resources Summer Tech Rhonda Smart as she returns to college.



Natural Resources Summer Tech Ryan Greenlaw will be staying with us a little longer to help finish up some projects before the snow flies.

Please join us in wishing Rhonda all the best.



Skitkomiq Nutacomit
Earth Speaker

Going, going, Gone!

After standing tall for many years and overlooking the Meduxnekeag, the old Lowery Farmhouse is no more. Sadly, numerous issues plagued the building from lead paint and mold contamination to many structural ones. The farmhouse even survived an electrical fire in July of 2013!



Lowery Farmhouse Fall 2013

Out of concern for the health and safety of the community, the tribal council decided to take it down.

So in the fall of 2013, we followed up with Dave Hopkins of CES, Inc. of Presque Isle. While working with CES on the tribal cemetery project, we began discussing possible options for dealing with the farmhouse.

A request for bids to safely take down the farmhouse and deal with its contamination issues went out in the Fall of 2013. All of the bids that came in exceeded \$40,000! That figure was far more than anyone expected and was far greater than the funds available, so the project was briefly shelved again. In a follow up discussion with CES it was suggested that we test the house for asbestos.



Lowery Farmhouse on Demolition Day February 24, 2014

CES performed extensive asbestos testing on all the building materials to help us determine the best course of action. Much to everyone's surprise, none of the roofing, siding or flooring contained asbestos. Those results helped reduce the costs of the project and greatly reduced the potential health and environmental

impacts to the land and community.

Once the asbestos testing confirmed that there was no asbestos to deal with burning the building became an option. I contacted Houlton Fire Chief Milton Cone to discuss offering the structure to the Houlton Fire Department as a site for training exercises. Ultimately, the Town decided that this was not something they wished to do so once again it looked like the project would get shelved.

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Going, going, Gone! Cont'd

Shortly thereafter, Malcolm Thornton of Brown Development and contacted us asked if we'd be interested in working with them to take the building down and burn it. Brown's quickly became a great partner. They coordinated all the people and equipment necessary to accomplish the project. They also removed and recycled all of the old computer equipment with the help of an electronics recycler from downstate.

During demolition Brown's also sorted all the metal from the building (pipes, furnace, oil tanks, sinks etc.) for the tribe to recycle. A large dumpster was brought in for the removal of shingles and other building materials that could not be safely burned on site.

Once the farmhouse was down and completely burned, the remaining ash was buried, the foundation broken up and the pit was filled in with soil and the site was graded. In just over two days, the entire project was completed.



Left - demolition of farmhouse with excavator

Below left - all that's left is a pile of debris

Below right- smoldering fire reduced the debris to ash that's buried on site.

Bottom right - the site as it looks today



Earth Camps by Sebastian Walton



I attended 2 earth camps hosted by 2 different tribes. I went to an earth camp in New York and the Mohawk tribe hosted it. We learned their cultural ways. We learned the Medicinal properties of plants, we learned about water quality. A hunter came in and told us about traps and showed us why certain traps are illegal. We pounded brown ash, and made baskets. We then went to university camp and they showed us the scientific ways of everything we learned. We learned songs from the other tribes, and their dances. We ate cultural foods, and had bonfires.

The second earth camp I attended was at Schoodic Point. I believe it was hosted by the Penobscot tribe. This camp was shorter. We learned about the plants, we pounded Ash Trees, and made bookmarks. We heard stories from Roger Paul, and listened to many people who showed us the scientific ways of things. It was a mixture of culture and science. The first camp was 10 days, and the second camp was 5. I met a lot of people from both Camps and all were from different tribes.

Sebastian spent a short time this summer working in the Water Resources Program under the Workforce Investment Act program.

Animal Magnetism: How Salmon Find Their Way Back Home by Sarah Zielinski, National Public Radio

Before they end up filleted and sautéed on your dinner plate, salmon lead some pretty extraordinary, globe-trotting lives.

After hatching in a freshwater stream, young salmon make a break for the ocean, where they hang out for years, covering thousands of miles before deciding its time to settle down and lay eggs in their natal stream.

So how do these fish find their way back to their home river?

According to one theory, it's all about magnetism. When salmon are young, the theory goes, they imprint on the pattern of the Earth's magnetic field at the mouth of their native river. Years later, when the salmon head back home to spawn, they home in on that pattern. In a study published Thursday (2/18/13) in *Current Biology*, the scientists behind that theory now say they have evidence that's exactly how the fish are navigating.

Magnetic detection "is one part of their toolkit for being really efficient navigators," says the study's lead author, Nathan Putman, a postdoctoral researcher at Oregon State University in Corvallis. The fish also use their sense of smell to help them locate the exact stream of their birth.

The finding could be helpful for fishery managers who'd like to predict where their fish will be and how their populations might change due to climate change and fishing pressures, Putman says.

Around the world, many salmon stocks are on the decline, and scientists would like to explain odd events, like why millions of wild sockeye salmon

didn't return to Canada's Fraser River in 2009. It's possible a glitch in the salmon's navigational abilities played a role.

An even bigger concern is whether being raised in hatcheries somehow alter salmon's "internal GPS." Spawned in tanks, these salmon are released into streams and rivers and account for a large amount of the "wild" salmon that swim in the ocean and end up on your dinner plate.

Putnam worries that something about their hatchery upbringing could throw off how these salmon perceive magnetic fields. Because the Earth's magnetic field is relatively weak and can be overpowered by man-made objects, it's possible that something as simple as the iron reinforcements in the fish tanks, or nearby electrical cables, could throw off the salmon's magnetic imprinting.

"Then they might not be very good at navigating, and that could cause problems," he says.

If salmon born in hatcheries get lost on the way back home, they could end up in the wrong stream and interbreed with wild salmon populations. That's a problem, because studies suggest that hatchery-raised salmon aren't nearly as good at surviving outside captivity as their wild counterparts - and when they mate, the wild stock ends up genetically weaker.

For more information:

htwww.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2013/02/07/171384063



Bright red sockeye salmon swim up the Fraser River to the stream where they were hatched
Current Biology, Putnam et

Here Come the Beetles!



Matthew Edberg releasing beetles

No, we're not talking about the group from Liverpool, we're talking about Loosestrife Defoliating Beetles. This year, in an attempt to halt the spread of the invasive Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum Salicaria*), and to reduce our use of pesticides, we released some beetles whose sole purpose is to eat the leaves of the purple loosestrife.

Early results are promising, stay turned to future newsletters for more information about this project.



Purple loosestrife plants showing signs of beetle activity

Need Firewood?

As a result of various construction projects undertaken by the Tribe in the past couple years, we currently have a stockpile of firewood available to tribal members.



Energy Efficiency Page

Check us out on Facebook! The Natural Resources Department now has an Energy Efficiency page. Thanks to the help of Heidi Kelley, we're posting articles, tips, games and more to help you save money, save the planet and learn about energy efficiency. Please feel free to submit any interesting bits about energy efficiency and we'll post it to our page. Find us under Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Natural Resources Department.



Check us out!!

The wood, mostly poplar, is located off the Lowery Road behind the where the old farmhouse once stood, (see photo right).

Please help yourself to this firewood. Be sure to be careful while cutting and removing firewood as the piles may be unstable. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us here at the Natural Resources Department.

Remember - If you wish to cut your own firewood outside of this offering you will still need to get a firewood permit from Natural Resources.



Find the English and Maliseet words in the puzzle at right

- Apples Cikon
- Autumn Toqakiw
- Autumn Leaf Pqiptes
- Bear Muwin
- Berries Mins
- Deer Otuhk
- Flock Mawamketuwiyak
- Grouse Mociyehs
- Harvest Moon Amilkewi-kisuhs
- Hibernate Punoqsu
- Hunt Kotunkahtin
- Moose Mus
- November Kelotonuhket
- October Amilkahtin
- Season Tomikoton
- September Matsehiyewi-kisuhs

Fall Word Search Puzzle

A K O T U N K A H T I N Q W E R T A S D
 T O M I K O T O N A U T U M N F G Z X C
 V O C T O B E R P B N M M M L K J H P O
 A A I U Y T R E Q W Q A A S U M P D F G
 U M A T S E H K I Y E W I K I S U H S H
 T I I J M T K L P M N A B V C H N W X Z
 U L S L Z O A Q T W S M X E D A O G I C
 M K E T K Q O G E C I K O N B R Q R T N
 N E P A G A H S S B J E T K L V S O B O
 L W T P M K H D E E R T U N M E U U E V
 E I E P L I U T K A J U H H G S F S R E
 A K M L S W N D I R F W K F C T V E R M
 F I B E Q A T M I N S I W E L M R T I B
 Y S E S U I O M O C I Y E H S O L K E E
 J U R N H H I B E R N A T E U O C F S R
 G H K E L O T O N U H K E T P N O K J H
 A S E A S O N D F T Y H N U J M I K O L

Five Hazardous Weather Myths Debunked

by Mark Leberfinger, AccuWeather.com Staff Writer

Numerous people have misconceptions about the weather, and some of the myths can prove to be dangerous or life-threatening.

1. Myth: Humid Air Is Heavier Than Dry Air - Dry air is actually heavier than humid air, AccuWeather.com Senior Meteorologist Steve Wistar said. There are more molecules of water in humid air which are lighter than molecules of air, he said. "You can really feel the presence of humid air, but it is less dense," he said.

An airliner will need a larger runway length in dry air because there is more air resistance, and a baseball will go farther in humid air.

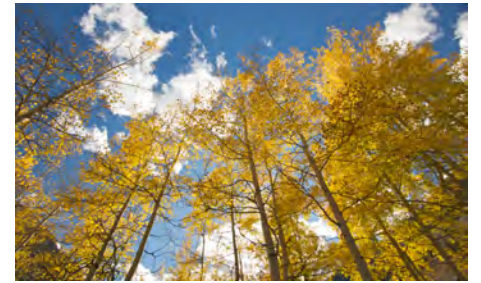
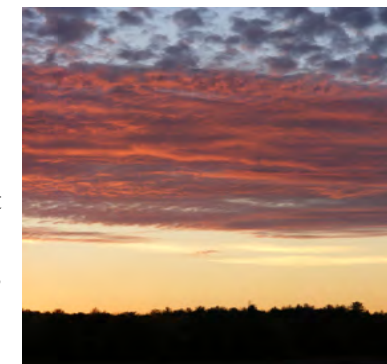


2. Myth: Tornadoes Don't Strike Cities or Mountainous Areas - The presence of rough terrain or sky scrapers tend to disrupt and weaken the circulation of tornadoes but that doesn't mean they avoid those areas, AccuWeather.com Senior Meteorologist Jack Boston said. "You should take them just as seriously if a tornado warning is issued for your area," he said.

An F-4 tornado, known as the Moshannon tornado, plowed over hills and through the valleys of northern Centre County, Pennsylvania, on May 31, 1985, Wistar said.

Tornadoes have touched down in Texas and Mid-western cities and have hit skyscrapers, Wister added. New York City and other major cities of the East have also been struck by tornadoes.

3. Myth: Red at Night, Sailors' Delight; Red in Morning, Sailors' Warning - There is truth to the saying, but it's not a hard-and-fast meteorological maxim, Wistar said.



A red sky tends to show that the atmosphere is dry, Boston said. If it occurs as the sun sets in the west, it means there is dry air and clearing skies. If the red sky occurs at sunrise, it means the dry air is to the east and unsettled weather is possibly to the west, he said.

Weather systems in the Northern Hemisphere generally move from west to east, but the maxim doesn't always



work because other systems may move from east to west or from south to north instead.

4. Myth: It's Safe to Drive Through Flood Waters -

"Absolutely not," Boston said.

"It takes only 2 feet of water that is moving to lift a car off the road surface," Boston said. About half of all flash flood-related fatalities are vehicle-related, the National Weather Service said. In addition to a vehicle being moved off the road by flood waters, those same waters may also cover over a washed-out section of roadway or other obstruction.



5. Myth: Lightning Doesn't Strike the Same Place Twice - Very tall buildings are targets for multiple lightning strikes.

"The Empire State Building gets struck repeatedly [on average of 100 times a year]. It all depends on how much an object sticks up in the sky," Wistar said.

Lightning has also been known to strike the same person twice, or seven times in the case of former U.S. Park Ranger Roy Sullivan. Sullivan survived all seven strikes while he was working in the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

<http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/five-weather-myths-debunked/29599997>

A New Beginning for the Meduxnekeag

By Helena Swiatek, NRCS District Conservationist

Like many large rivers in Maine, the South Branch of the Meduxnekeag River in Houlton, Maine was cleared, widened and blasted for log drives and ferry barges in the 1800's. What worked well for man however, did not suit the abundant fish population. Rivers cleared of woody debris and rocks become deserts for fish habitat. Healthy streams have "structure." This means they have rocks that the water moves over and around adding oxygen to the water for the fish. Streams have fallen trees and logs along the banks creating cover for the fish to hide from predators. These structures also create speed in the channel which helps keep the water from heating up. This is also important since fish native to Northern Maine thrive in cold water. A team of partners set out to replace all this lost structure to repair the damage done years before.

In 2007, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (HBMI), with support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), began a study of nearby rivers with fluvial-geomorphologist John Field to determine what the Meduxnekeag should look like if it had not been altered. Armed with this information they approached the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for assistance. After receiving funding through NRCS's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) in 2011, HBMI further teamed up with Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture and USFWS to obtain enough funds to complete stream restoration on over 2 miles of the Meduxnekeag. Construction was set to begin during the summer of 2013 but an exceedingly wet summer prevented construction. It wasn't until July of 2014 that the project actually began.



Elder Danya Boyce offering a song to the river before construction begins

On July 21st 2014, all the partners and the contractor met on site for an opening ceremony led by Brenda Commander, Chief of HBMI. At the ceremony Chief Commander stressed the importance of the river to both the tribe and the surrounding community. Participants received a smudging and offered tobacco to the river as a blessing.



Project partners - front : Nick Archer, ME DEP, Chief Brenda Commander, Elder Danya Boyce, Angie Wotton So. Aroostook Soil & Water Conservation District, Sharri Venno- HBMI, Helena Swiatek - NRCS, Jennifer Lapis US FWS, Rhonda Smart - HBMI, rear: Scott Craig - US FWS, DJ Monette -US FWS, John Field - fluvial geomorphologist - project designer, Bill Dunbar - contractor, Ryan Greenlaw - HBMI

Afterward many shared they had prayed for good weather for the next stage of the project.

Everyone's prayers were answered by a calm and sunny two weeks on the river. John Field oversaw the daily construction with intermittent inspections by NRCS District Conservationist Helena Swiatek. At predetermined locations 24 inch trees were driven into the banks by an excavator and reinforced by 5 foot boulders. In other locations trees and rocks were buried into the channel. Temporary skidder bridges were used to access the stream and to prevent erosion to the stream banks. Any disturbed areas were seeded down and mulched immediately.

Today a stretch of the Meduxnekeag has been enhanced and restored for fish habitat. Now the river can begin reforming pools, riffles and more log traps as it meanders around the structures, with full restoration expected in 5 years. But anglers won't have to wait that long to see the benefits. Immediately after installation, fish and other wildlife were already seen congregating around the structures. The 2015 fishing season is anticipated to be the best yet. It's a new beginning for the Meduxnekeag thanks to the dedicated efforts of the HBMI, NRCS, partners and landowners.

See page 5 for photos of the project

Poison Ivy, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac - cont'd

wet compresses and take cool baths. Nonprescription antihistamines and calamine lotion also may help relieve symptoms. Moderate or severe cases of the rash may require treatment by a doctor, who may prescribe corticosteroid pills, creams, ointments, or shots (injections).

The rash from poison ivy, oak, or sumac typically is mild and can be treated at home. Home treatment for the rash usually helps relieve symptoms rather than speeding up the time it takes the rash to heal. If you know you had contact with one of the plants, immediately wash areas of the skin that may have touched the plant. Sometimes the rash can be completely avoided by washing the affected areas with plenty of water. Clothing and other items that may have oil on them should be thoroughly washed right away too. To relieve itching and help blisters dry out, apply wet compresses or soak the area in cool water. Antihistamine pills or calamine lotion may help relieve symptoms.

To prevent infection, try not to scratch the rash. Also, cut your fingernails short to minimize the possibility of opening the skin and spreading bacteria.

How can I prevent the rash from poison ivy, oak, and sumac?

Other than staying indoors, the best way to prevent the rash is to learn to identify and avoid the plants. When you cannot avoid contact with the plants, heavy clothing (long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and vinyl gloves) and barrier creams or lotions may help protect you.

For more information:

<http://aroundthecabin.com/the-three-bad-sisters-poison-ivy-oak-and-sumac/>
www.webmd.com



POISON IVY - MYTHS AND FACTS




Poison Ivy rash is contagious.	Rubbing the rashes won't spread poison ivy to other parts of your body (or to another person). You spread the rash only if urushiol oil - the sticky, resinlike substance that causes the rash -- has been left on your hands.
You can catch poison ivy simply by being near the plants	Direct contact is needed to release urushiol oil. Stay away from forest fires, direct burning, or anything else that can cause the oil to become airborne such as a lawnmower, trimmer, etc.
Leaves of three, let them be	Poison sumac has 7 to 13 leaves on a branch, although poison ivy and oak have 3 leaves per cluster.
Do not worry about dead plants	Urushiol oil stays active on any surface, including dead plants, for up to 5 years.
Breaking the blisters releases urushiol oil that can spread	Not true. But your wounds can become infected and you may make the scarring worse. In very extreme cases, excessive fluid may need to be withdrawn by a doctor.
I've been in poison ivy many times and never broken out. I'm immune.	Not necessarily true. Upwards of 90% of people are allergic to urushiol oil, it's a matter of time and exposure. The more times you are exposed to urushiol, the more likely it is that you will break out with an allergic rash. For the first time sufferer, it generally takes longer for the rash to show up - generally in 7 to 10 days.

For more information or fun facts about Poison Ivy

Visit the Poison Ivy , Oak and Sumac Center

<http://poisonivy.aesir.com/view/fastfacts.html>

POISONOUS PLANT LINEUP

 <p>POISON IVY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grows around lakes and streams Leaves are green in the summer and red in the fall Yellow or green flowers and white berries 	 <p>POISON OAK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grows as a low shrub Oak-like leaves, usually in clusters of three Clusters of yellow berries 	 <p>POISON SUMAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grows in boggy areas Rangy shrub up to 15 feet tall Seven to 13 smooth-edged leaflets Glossy pale yellow or cream colored berries
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BIA Water Resources Technician Training by Kristin Hardy



Kristin and Brandon Curtis, (Navajo) testing for salinity

I recently returned from a four week BIA Water Resources Technician Training, held at the University of Arizona, in Tucson. It was offered to native students/ people, to introduce and provide

practical/technical skills of the broader issues associated with water resources management. Associated areas included: hydrology and water resources, hydrometeorology, water quality issues and management, rangeland management, irrigation and safety of dams.

The program introduced and incorporated the hydrologic cycle which is (the continuous movement of water, liquid, gas or solid on, above and below the Earth's surface). While there I also visited two waste water treatment centers, and learned about their reuse of the water. When you see such a lack of water it's very distressing. It was all very enlightening and made me realize how fortunate I am to come from Northern Maine. It has given me a greater appreciation of the abundance of our water. My goal is to help people become more aware of this vital resource and ultimately help look after it for our future generations, for we are "Wolastoqewiyik," "People of the Beautiful, Flowing River".

Below I will provide a picture of a watershed and its key concepts. Try drawing one of your own and what you think your watershed might look like.

Key Concepts:

- **Watershed:** is a contiguous area of land that drains to a single outlet and is separated from other watersheds by a divide.
- **Divide:** the ridgeline that separates two adjacent watersheds which drain into different outlets.



Touring waste water treatment plant



Lettuce growing in water (hydroponics)



Water recharge channel



Beautiful view from atop Mt. Lemon in Coronado National Forest

- **Watersheds** vary in size from thousands of square miles for a major river to basin to a few acres for smaller sub basins.

Importance of the Watershed Concept:

- If we follow a droplet from where it landed in the watershed its journey through the watershed, this droplet has a lot of opportunities to be changed.
- Within our watershed, those things that our neighbor's do (this includes non-human neighbors as well) will affect everyone else in the community, whatever happens upstream will influence everyone who lives downstream.



In the space below draw a watershed - include different types of land cover you have in a watershed. Then, draw a journey of a water droplet of rain through a watershed, and where that travels into, make sure to point out where it lands and the paths it takes through various parts of the watershed until it reaches the outlet. Also consider how the journey of a droplet might affect the quality of our water.

A New Beginning for the Meduxnekeag cont'd.

Looking north on from Lowery Bridge before project began



John Field on log cluster before being installed



Log cluster being installed north of Lowery Bridge



When I am by the river - I am simply there. I watch it closely and feel myself not apart from it.

Barry Lopez - the Naturalist



Installation complete

Poison Ivy, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac - Three Bad Sisters

What are poison ivy, oak, and sumac?

It's the time of year for the three bad sisters. No I am not talking about the ones up the street. I am referring to; Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, and Poison Sumac. These are plants that can cause a skin rash when they touch your skin. The red, uncomfortable, and itchy rash often shows up in lines or streaks and is marked by fluid-filled bumps (blisters) or large raised areas (hives). It is the most common skin problem caused by contact with these plants.

Both poison ivy and poison oak have three leaflets, while poison sumac more commonly displays leaflets of five, seven, or more that angle upward toward the top of the stem. Although it is often recommended that people learn to recognize the poison ivy plant ("Leaves of three, leave them be"), in practice, this can be difficult, since poison ivy and its relatives are often mixed in with other vegetation and not noticed until after the rash has begun. The leaves are shiny on their surface. More than half the population can react to the poison ivy resin if they are exposed to it. Keeping the skin covered in situations in which exposure is hard to avoid is the best way to prevent the problem. Without treatment, the rash usually lasts about 10 days to 3 weeks. But in people who are very sensitive to urushiol, the rash may take up to 6 weeks to heal.

What causes a poison ivy, oak, or sumac rash?

The rash is caused by contact with an oil (urushiol) found in poison ivy, oak, or sumac. The oil is present in all parts of the plants, including the leaves, stems, flowers, berries, and roots. Urushiol is an allergen, so the rash is actually an allergic reaction to the oil in these plants. Indirect contact with urushiol can also cause the rash. This may happen when you touch **clothing, pet fur, sporting gear, gardening tools, or other objects that have come in contact with one of these plants**. But the oil (urushiol) does not cause a rash on everyone who gets it on his or her skin.

What are the symptoms of the rash?

The usual symptoms of the rash are:

- A:** Itchy skin where the plant touched your skin.
- B:** Red streaks or general redness where the plant brushed against the skin.
- C:** Small bumps or larger raised areas (hives).
- D:** Blisters filled with fluid that may leak out.

The rash usually appears 8 to 48 hours after your contact with the oil (urushiol). But it can occur from 5 hours to 15 days after touching the plant. The rash usually takes more

than a week to show up the first time you get oil (urushiol) on your skin. But the rash develops much more quickly (within 1 to 2 days) after later contacts. The rash will continue to develop in new areas over several days but only on the parts of your skin that had contact with the urushiol or those parts where the urushiol was spread by touching.

The rash is not contagious. You cannot catch or spread a rash after it appears, even if you touch it or the blister fluid, because the urushiol will already be absorbed or washed off the skin. The rash may seem to be spreading. But either it is still developing from earlier contact or you have touched something that still has oil (urushiol) on it.

The more oil (urushiol) you come in contact with, the more severe your skin reaction. Severe reactions to smaller amounts of oil (urushiol) also may occur in people who are highly sensitive to the oil (urushiol). Serious symptoms may include:

- 1: Swelling of the face, mouth, neck, genitals, or eyelids (which may prevent the eyes from opening).
- 2: Widespread, large blisters that ooze large amounts of fluid.

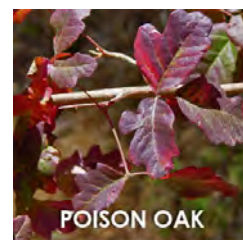
How is the rash diagnosed?

The rash usually is diagnosed during a physical exam. Your doctor will examine the rash and ask questions

to find out when you were exposed to the plant and how long it took the rash to develop. If you are not sure whether you were exposed to a plant, he or she will ask about your outdoor activities, work, and hobbies. Don't forget to mention the area you were in. These three plants are not all across the US.

How is the rash treated?

Most poison ivy, oak, or sumac rashes can be treated successfully at home. Initial treatment consists of washing the area with water immediately after



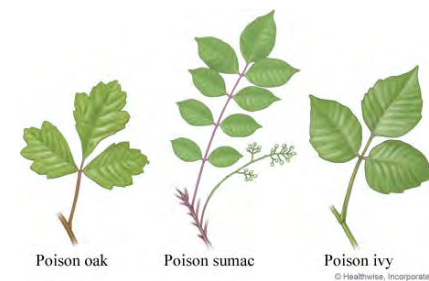
POISON OAK



POISON IVY



POISON SUMAC



Poison oak

Poison sumac

Poison ivy

© Healthline, Incorporated

How to Identify Poison Ivy

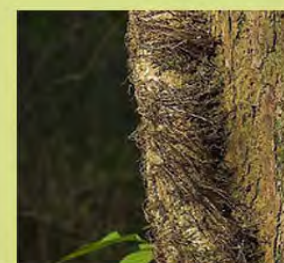
by treksinthewild.com



Toxicodendron radicans

"Leaves of three, let it be."

This old rhyme refers to the grouping of three leaves that are most commonly associated with poison ivy. Though there are many other plants with three predominate leaves, this can be a good starting point for identification.



"Hairy vine, no friend of mine." & "Raggy rope, don't be a dope!"

Poison ivy vines on trees have a furry "raggy" appearance. These rhymes warn tree climbers to be wary. Old, mature vines on tree trunks can be quite large and long, with the recognizable leaves obscured among the higher foliage of the tree.

"Berries white, run in fright" & "Berries white, danger in sight."

The berry-like fruit, a drupe, mature by August to November with a grayish-white colour. Fruits are a favorite winter food of some birds and other animals. Seeds are spread mainly by animals and remain viable after passing through the digestive tract.



"Longer middle stem, stay away from them."

This refers to the middle leaflet having a notably longer stem than the two side leaflets and is a key to differentiating it from the similar-looking *Rhus aromatica* - Fragrant sumac.

"Red leaflets in the spring, it's a dangerous thing."

Sometimes in the spring new leaflets have a red appearance. (Note that later, in the summer, the leaflets are green, making them more difficult to distinguish from other plants, while in autumn they can be reddish-orange.)



"Side leaflets like mittens, will itch like the dickens."

This refers to the appearance of some, but not all, poison ivy leaves, where each of the two side leaflets has a small notch that makes the leaflet look like a mitten with a "thumb."

"If butterflies land there, don't put your hand there."

Some butterflies land on poison ivy, since they are not affected, which provides them protection as their predators avoid eating the plant.



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