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Poison ivy

Toxicodendron radicans (L.) Ktze.

Life cycle: Perennial woody vine.

Leaves: Alternate, compound with three shiny leaflets. Leaflet margins may be smooth, toothed or lobed. The side leaflets occur on very short stalks; the middle leaflet occurs on a much longer stalk. Leaves may turn bright red in the fall. Contact with any part of this plant can cause a reaction in sensitive people.

Stems: Shrubby or climbing, woody vines are supported by aerial roots.

Flowers and fruit: Small, inconspicuous, yellow to green flowers have five petals. Fruit are gray to white berries (drupes).

Reproduction: Seeds, creeping roots and stems, which may root if in contact with the ground.



All photos this page: Steven A. Gower

Poison ivy foliage.



Compound leaf of poison ivy.



Poison ivy aerial roots.



Poison ivy flower.