



Three Of These Plants Are Poisonous! WHICH IS WHICH?

First, take the check test at the right.

If the test indicates that you cannot identify at least 2 of the 3 poisonous plants shown, your chances of plant poisoning are high. Although there are many varieties of poisonous plants, there are 3 which possess the basic characteristics found in most sub-types—poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac. Learn to identify them and prevent possible plant poisoning.

POISON IVY. Generally grows as climbing vine in wooded regions, or as running vine along fences, or in fields. May also take form of low growing shrub. Leaves are always composed of 3 leaflets. Only one 3-parted leaf extends from each node on plant stem, never occurring paired. Leaflets may have either even or lobed (indentations part way down the leaflet) margins. Flowers, when produced, appear in clusters on side of stem, directly above a leaf. Berry-like fruits, if produced, afford a positive identification, being white and waxy in appearance.

POISON OAK. Usually found in shrub form, occasionally in vine form, in same type areas

	1	2	3	4	5	6
POISON IVY	()	()	()	()	()	()
POISON OAK	()	()	()	()	()	()
POISON SUMAC	()	()	()	()	()	()

favorable to poison ivy. Three leaflets, with much irregularity of lobing. Leaflet surface usually uneven and quite glossy. Greenish-white flowers appear in clusters. Fruit may appear as greenish or creamy-white berries.

POISON SUMAC. Form of small tree or shrub, usually found on edges of swamps or bogs. Leaves are composed of 7 to 13 unlobed leaflets, arranged in pairs. Leaves are orange in spring, green in summer and red-orange in fall. Flowers are yellowish-green, hanging in long clusters. Fruits resemble those of poison oak and ivy, but hang in long clusters, from 10 to 12 inches long.

Answers: 1. Virginia Creeper 2. Poison Ivy 3. Box Elder 4. Poison Oak 5. Smooth Sumac 6. Poison Sumac.