

The Corporation of the Township of Tay is aware of the effects of poison ivy in our community. However, it is important that the citizens be aware of the existence of these noxious plants within the community.

Under the *Pesticides Act and Ontario Regulation 63/09*, passed by the Ministry of Environment in 2009, more than ninety pesticides have been banned for cosmetic purposes. With this in mind, the Township is no longer permitted to spray infected areas. Pesticides are to be used only for public health and safety reasons. The Township of Tay is currently doing their best to maintain all accounts of poison ivy found on our trails and in our parks by pruning the infected areas.

Commonly Found

Poison ivy generally resides in wooded areas, in fields, along roadsides and in riverbeds.

**For more information on
pois ivy, please visit the following
websites:**

**Ontario Ministry of Health and
Long-term Care**
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/>

**Ontario Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**
<http://www.agr.gc.ca/>

Ontario Weeds
<http://www.ontarioweeds.com/>



POISON IVY: **EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**



THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF TAY



Characteristics

There is the old saying, "Leaves of Three, Let it be". Poison ivy consists of three thin, pointy and shiny leaves that change colour depending on the season.

Exposure

Poison ivy occurs most frequently during the spring and summer months. It is important to be conscious of the plant during this high season to avoid contact.

Beware of travelling through the Tay trails and parks with bare skin, especially open toed shoes and sandals. Contact with the oily resin, called urushiol, found within the plant can cause an allergic reaction leading to the inflammation of contaminated areas of your body.

As well, poison ivy can be transferred from other polluted surfaces such as clothes and tools. The most common example is a family pet. For instance, although a dog may not be susceptible to the consequences of poison ivy, the oily sap found in the plant may reside on the animal's fur, which can be transferred through human contact.

GREEN IN THE SPRING



RED IN THE SUMMER



ORANGE IN THE FALL



Symptoms

Poison ivy shows most often after two days of coming in contact with the plant and peaks after five days. It begins with an irritating rash, followed by redness, itching and swelling. In some cases, tiny blisters may form. It is an allergic reaction that generally lasts about two weeks.

Poison ivy can cause more harsh reactions, depending on the severity of the allergy. If this occurs, do not hesitate to call an emergency operator.

Treatment

If you are afraid that you may have been exposed to poison ivy, immediately wash the infected zones with soap and cold water. Wash any other areas that may have been contaminated, including clothes, shoes, tools and pets.

If the rash has already appeared, spread on calamine lotion or other creams containing zinc oxide. Additionally, apply a cold compress to the affected areas. See a physician if necessary.