



Poison Ivy - Oak - Sumac

Poison Ivy (PI) - Poison Oak (PO) - Poison Sumac (PS)

When looking at a map of the United States, I see almost all of us have the potential to have at least two of the woody poisonous plants. The two most common, PI and PO both have leaves in a cluster of 3. The leaves may be very waxy and glossy or dull and flat, making identification harder.

Western PI (top image), Eastern PI (second image). Both occur over a large part of the U. S. It can be found as a low growing shrub, a vine along the ground or a vine that climbs to the top of the tallest tree. PI has woody rhizomes which can make it hard to control, it also spreads by seeds.

Western PO (third image) also known as Pacific PO, occurs as a woody shrub or a vine that loses its leaves in the winter. Birds generally help in the spread, by eating the fruit and depositing in a new location, where over time a single plant may spread over a larger area.

Eastern PO (fourth image) also known as Atlantic PO, is generally found as a short shrub up to 4 foot. It is found in sandy or drier locations such as open woodlands and pine areas, more common along the forest edge.

Finally PS (see bottom image) grows in very wet or flooded soils such as swamps, bogs, wetlands and the shore of lakes and streams. It grows as a shrub up to 6 to 15 foot tall. May be the MOST poisonous of them all.

Control

The first type of control is hand pulling, grubbing or hoeing. This may be effective but you must get all portions of the underground rootstock. Don't forget to wear gloves and protective clothes and don't rub your eyes!

First you can prune the plants back and apply *Brush Killer Stump Killer* or *Cut Vine & Stump Killer*, undiluted to the stumps within 45 minutes. This is the only way to treat plants vining on other, desirable plants. *Triclopyr 4* is also available in 1/2 gallon, gallon and 2 1/2 gallon as well.

For selective control in turf, or around desirable plants you can spray the *Brush & Stump* or *Triclopyr 4*. In turf only, the *Triclopyr + D* is a little more effective with the addition of 2,4-D, available in the same sizes as above.

For non-selective control, spray with *KillZall*, which has 2 surfactants and will stick better than most other chemicals. For a beefed up version and in wet locations, use *KillZall Aquatic*. With this chemical and the others, add *Spreader Sticker* to the mix to help it adhere and penetrate those waxy leaves.



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