

## The Poison "Urushiol" Pronounced "yoo-ROO-she-ol"

Urushiol is the allergen found on poison ivy, oak, and sumac. It is an oily substance found **on all parts of the plants at all times of the year!**

Urushiol oil can stay active on dead plants, clothing, or objects for **one to five years!** If you believe an object has come in contact with any of these plants, be sure to wash it properly before using or touching it again!

The oil **can be transferred to your body and face** from your clothing, pets, gardening or camping tools, furniture, or from direct contact with any part of the plant causing an allergic reaction in most people

## Contact Dermatitis

The skin condition caused from exposure with any object (plant or otherwise) containing the oil urushiol

Some people do not react when in contact with the plants. However, at any time someone who 'was not allergic' to poison ivy/oak/sumac may suddenly become 'allergic' to it, and vice versa. **Prolonged exposure does not make you immune!**

Causes a localized irritation that ranges from a rash, itching, burning skin, swelling or blistering. Symptoms can be mild or severe and may last days to weeks. Severe cases or exposure to sensitive areas (especially eyes) need to **seek medical attention immediately!**

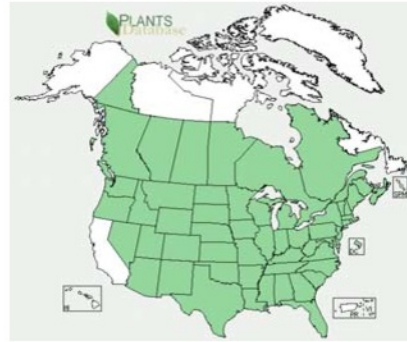
**Burning the plants are VERY dangerous!!** The urushiol can be inhaled and cause respiratory failure or death

## Treatment

Try a cool water compress with a cloth or add baking soda and/or oatmeal to the cloth. Anti-itch solutions can be purchased at most pharmacies.

**DO NOT** rub your eyes if you came in contact with these plants (your eyes could swell shut!)

## United States and Canada



Poison Ivy



Poison Sumac



Poison Oak

Present  
 Not Present



## Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge

## Poisonous Plants

### Poison Ivy, Sumac, and Oak

