Poison Ivy Remedies, Warnings
A number of our employees working on landscaping jobs where there is poison ivy are affected by the plants upon contact. How is poison ivy spread from one part of the body to another? Does it get into the bloodstream? What can be done to prevent this problem?

Solution: Poison ivy contains toxic oil (resin) produced from leaves, stems and roots. Secretion of oil occurs generally when the plants come in contact with skin. Reports indicate that irritation can result from touching a dormant plant or recently dead plant, or even from pruning tools which come in contact with the plant.

Symptoms of poison ivy contamination include a rash. Eventually affected areas turn red, producing blisters, swelling, burning, itching and may lead to fever in some instances. Medical attention may be required if the problem is severe. Reports indicate that poison ivy is not spread by the watery liquid within the skin blisters. Also, I am not sure whether or not the ivy oil enters the bloodstream. My guess is it spreads only on the external skin. The oil from the plant causes the itchy rash reaction. Washing the skin immediately after coming in contact with poison ivy may reduce the symptoms.

The resin sets up in the skin five to 15 minutes after exposure, after which washing will not help.

People who are sensitive to poison ivy should learn to recognize it and where it grows, and if possible, avoid any contact.

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