

## POISON IVY

by Stanley Rachesky

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In the past few weeks, our office has received numerous requests for information on the control of poison ivy. The first step in poison ivy control, of course, is proper identification. Sometimes proper identification can be a problem because the plant can assume many different appearances.

Poison ivy may vine on fences, walls or trees, or it may spread along the ground, or even may appear as an erect shrub. Each leaf is made up of three leaflets. These leaflets may be either glossy or dull green, and may have smooth, toothed or lobed edges. Variations can even occur on the same plant. Keep this in mind when trying to identify poison ivy. (1) Each leaf is made up of 3 leaflets. (2) Each leaf is 2-4 inches long. (3) The edges of the leaflets may be smooth, toothed or lobed. (4) White flowers may occur on some plants during the summer. (5) The plant may grow as a shrub, vine, or along the ground.

Modern weed killing chemicals (herbicides) offer the easiest and safest method of controlling poison ivy.

Amitrole-T provides particularly effective control of poison ivy. It is available under such trade names as: Amino Triazole, Weedazol, and Poison Ivy Killer.

Aerosol cans containing amitrole are available and are convenient for killing small patches. Purchase the concentrate, dilute it with water and apply it with a small compressed air sprayer for larger areas. Spray the poison ivy plants until they are thoroughly wet. Do not let the amitrole contact desirable plants. Where this danger exists, amitrole should be applied to ivy leaves with a long-handled brush. In all cases, directions on the label of the container should be read and followed.

Apparently, there is no absolute immunity to poison ivy infection, although some people are more susceptible than other. People who do consider themselves immune may become more susceptible after sufficient exposure. Clothing, garden tools, and pets can become contaminated and can serve as sources of the irritant. Smoke from burning poison ivy may also carry the toxin.

### ANTI-POLLUTION TREE BELTS

Japan—While devices to reduce the amount of pollutants have been and still continue to be important, more far-reaching overall programs are needed, according to **Nippon Steel News**.

Under the supervision of the noted ecologist Dr. Akira Miyawaki of Yokohama National University, studies were conducted on plant life around the 11 Nippon Steel plants. The findings will serve as a basis for re-creating an environment of plants and other natural forms of life indigenous to each particular area. This will go far beyond the planting of grass, flowers, and saplings to create man-made gardens. Under Professor Miyawaki's concept, the best form of plant life around steel works (and other industries) is plant life indigenous to the locale, since such species as survive are those able to adapt to the area.

It was found that many forms of plant life—trees in particular—while affected by pollutants also serve the function of helping halt the spread of pollutants in the atmosphere by catching polluted matter as it falls. Rain washes the matter off the leaves and returns it to the earth.

Dr. Miyawaki points out that such trees also provide valuable oxygen, and that trees in an area covering 1 hectare (2.5 acres) are capable of returning to the earth from 70 to 100 metric tons of dust and contamination particles a year. If the trees wither, it would indicate that contamination is exceeding reasonable limits and would serve as a warning of the need for remedial action.

Tree belts are also useful as fire corridors, a refuge in the event of a major earthquake, and in absorbing noise and breaking wind.

Plans are to plant belts of trees around all of Nippon Steel's plants, as well as bushes and grass within the compounds. The first to have such a belt is the new Oita works. A green belt 50 m (164 ft.) wide and 5 km (3 mi) long is now being planted.

The height of the trees in the belt will vary, some ranging to 20 or 30 m (65 to 98 ft). Under present plans the trees will be planted fairly close together, and when they have grown to a certain height some will be removed to make room for younger trees, so that ultimately trees of varying heights and species will provide a thick cover.

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