POISONOUS PLANT PREVENTION GUIDE

The best prevention is avoiding poisonous plants. Tips to help prevent a poison plant reaction include:

- As campers and outdoor enthusiasts often say, “Leaves of three, let them be.” Know which poisonous plants grow in your area and know their appearance (see details below). Poison ivy, oak and sumac plants should be avoided because they contain an oily toxin that can irritate skin.
- Wear long pants, socks and covered shoes when outdoors if possible...and remember to remove and wash clothing immediately after coming indoors to remove any toxins.
- Wear a mask to protect yourself from ingesting any airborne toxins if working outdoors. (Remember: Never burn poison plants as a means of eradication. Doing so can cause a severe reaction. Carefully spray the plant regularly, every 3 weeks, with an all-purpose herbicide.)
- If you know or suspect you’ve come into contact with a poisonous plant, wash the skin as soon as possible to remove the plant oil. This reduces the chance of an outbreak. (Note: Washing too hard is unnecessary and could further irritate the skin.)

Be on the lookout for poisonous plants.

Poison Ivy

Location: All U.S. states except for AL, CA and HI
Identifying characteristics:
• Shrub or vine, 3 leaves per stem
• Spring: yellow, green-white flowers
• Summer: green leaves, in late Summer white berries
• Fall: red, yellow, orange leaves
• Winter: leafless

Poison Oak

Location: U.S. states in the West, South, Southeast and Mid-Atlantic
Identifying characteristics:
• Shrub or vine, 3 leaves per stem
• Spring: green leaves, white flowers, possibly white or tan berries
• Summer: yellow-green, red leaves
• Fall: bright red or pink leaves
• Winter: leafless

Poison Sumac

Location: Eastern half of the U.S.
Identifying characteristics:
• Shrub or small tree, 7 to 13 leaves per stem
• Spring: red stems, green berries, green or white flowers
• Summer: green leaves
• Fall: red, yellow, orange, pink leaves
• Winter: leafless, white berries

Know how to identify a poisonous plant reaction when it occurs. Like any allergy, a poisonous plant reaction can affect everyone differently. Typical symptoms include: general redness or a linear lesion, due to brushing against the leaf; itching that can be intense or unbearable; fluid-filled blisters that may ooze or weep; and/or swelling. If you notice a reaction, start treatment immediately. Download the Treatment Guide from www.ivarest.com for more information.