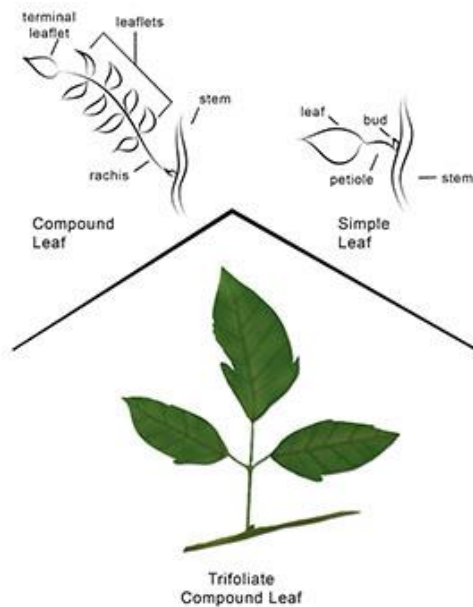


## **Poison Ivy Identification and Control**

If you live in Oklahoma and like to be outdoors, you will eventually run into poison ivy! The best defense is to be able to recognize it, avoid it and destroy it!



The many faces of poison ivy in summer, fall, winter and spring.

Poison ivy is a trifoliolate compound leaf and will have three separate leaflets. Leaflets can have smooth outer edges or be very jagged in their appearance.

The plant can grow as sparsely branched shrubs, as a shrub in a thicket, a ground cover or in vines, allowing it to climb up in trees. Poison ivy can grow in full sun, or in shade, have pale green leaves, or dark leaves and the size of the leaves can vary greatly. Sometimes Virginia Creeper is confused with Poison Ivy. But, Virginia Creeper has five leaves, not three.

Poison Ivy is best controlled with a herbicide labeled for either poison ivy or brush control. These preparations will either contain glyphosate, the chemical found in Roundup and many other brands, or Triclopyr as can be found in Ortho Brush-B-Gon. Some preparations contain both.

Glyphosate will injure any green plant on which it is sprayed. Triclopyr kills only broad-leafed plants, so it should be safe for most lawn grasses. Areas to which these chemicals may be sprayed are on the product label. The labels must be read and absolutely be followed to prevent undesired damage to your landscape and to have a satisfactory outcome. Of these two products, Triclopyr is most effective, but either one may have to be used more than once to control well established poison ivy.

Apply the herbicide when poison ivy is growing actively. Temperatures should be in the 60° to 85°F range. Avoid windy days when droplets might drift onto the foliage of nearby trees, shrubbery or garden plants.

You may have to spray more than once since poison ivy is a tough plant to kill. Wait two weeks or more between applications, and repeat only if weather permits.

Click here for more information on [identifying poison ivy](#), or to [destroy poison ivy](#).