



Jewelweed, one natural treatment for poison ivy

**NEVER  
BURN  
POISON  
IVY**-urushiol  
is atomized by  
heat and can  
adversely  
affect the lungs



Common Milkweed-effective treatment & readily available in Huron Woods

Poison Ivy



## *The Poison Ivy Primer*

### Identification

- three leafed formation atop long stem, centre bisymmetrical leaf extends on substem
- side leaves not bisymmetrical and may exhibit a “thumb” in direction opposite of the central leaf
- leaves may be shiny or dull, serated or smooth depending on the appearance of surrounding plants, colour varies
- plants grow as ground cover or vines

### Urushiol

- oil on all parts of the plant causes rash and burning/itching sensations
- remains active on any surface for up to five years , year round, and can be transferred from pet fur, or skin to skin contact
- can be atomized by the plant when it is exposed to heat or motion
- oil on the skin is spread by creams, lotions, soaps with emolients, and sun tan lotions
- rash prevention is by removal of oil within a 10 hour window
- effective removal by dish detergent, Tea Tree Oil Soap, Sunlight bar soap or jewelweed leaves rubbed on skin

### Treatment of the Rash

- wash thoroughly with pure soap
- treat with milkweed sap which forms invisible bandage or juice/tea of jewelweed plant to heal quickly
- cover with antibiotic cream and bandage because covering stops the itching

### Plant Removal- careful!

- although identified as a noxious plant, poison ivy, as part of the biodiverse forest floor, plays valuable role as stabilizer of tree roots and food/shelter for animals