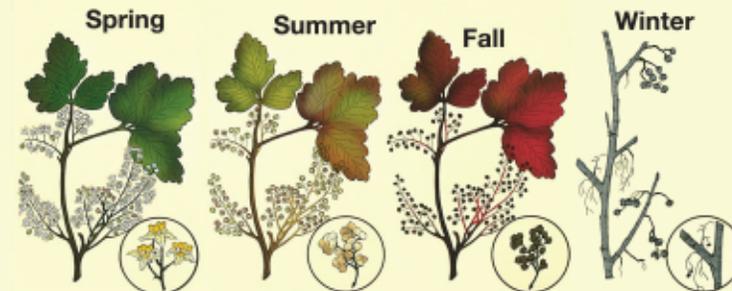


CAUTION Poison Oak

Learning how to identify poison oak is important. Contact with this common plant at any time of the year causes an itchy, blistering rash in many people. Touching clothing or pets that have brushed against the plant can also expose you to the irritating oils in poison oak. Much of the oily substance can be removed by immediately washing with soap and cold water. Never scratch a poison oak rash as it can make the outbreak much worse. If a severe rash develops, see a physician.

This plant may stand alone as a shrub or bush, sprawl as groundcover over hillsides, or climb, vine-like, up tall trees. Be especially careful in winter, because the plant loses its leaves, making it harder to recognize. When leaves are present they are always in leaflets of three. Remember —

LEAVES OF THREE, LET IT BE!



In some areas the leaves stay green all year, while in others they turn red in the fall.

Spring - Leaves are light, bright green with whitish-green flowers clustered on the stems.

Summer - Leaves may become yellow-green, pink, or reddish, with small white or tan berries.

Fall - Leaves turn bright red or russet. Fruit becomes darker, dried, and wrinkled.

Winter - Leaves and seeds fall, leaving sticks, whip-like stems or climbing vines.



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