

Toxicodendron radicans

Common name:

Poison ivy,

Palatability:

Seldom eaten.

Toxicity to Goats:

Not known to be toxic.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Toxic to humans, farm animals are immune.

Poisonous Principle:

Urushiol, and other toxins.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Severe dermatitis, in humans.
- . Swelling around the eyes of animals, after nosing in the plant.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Be aware of potential problems.

Treatment;

See Doctor, or Vet.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Mechanical removal, or herbicides.
- . Do not burn the residue, smoke carries the toxic oil.
- . Declared “Noxious” in some states.

Comments:

- . Garden plant.
- . Native of North America.
- . Individual human reaction varies from nil, to a severe rash, and blistering.
- . A deciduous, perennial, climber or sub-shrub, growing to about three metres high.
- . Leaves comprise three oval leaflets, pointed at the end, and either straight, scalloped or ruffled edges.

Plants may first appear as ground cover, vines or bushes.

- . Leaves are green, with three leaflets and wavy margins; some species are reddish at first in spring, and by autumn produce a magnificent display of autumn colour.
- . Flowers are small and greenish white, in clusters.
- . Berries are small and white, hard, hairless and bristly, in clusters, produced in summer, lasting until winter.
- . All parts can be toxic, berries, leaves and sap.
- . Some vines may look hairy due to aerial roots.
- . In humans, eating the leaves may cause a severe gastric upset, which may prove fatal,



Picture: *Toxicodendron radicans* Wikipedia

Further Reading:

- . Covacavich. Davie and Pearn. Toxic Plants and Animals. A Guide for Australia. 1987.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Plants of Australia. 2001.
- . Roth. Weeds, Friend or Foe. 2001.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.