

POISON OAK



WHAT TO WATCH FOR WHEN
CONDUCTING BRUSHING
OPERATIONS

POISON OAK FACTS

- **Poison Oak can be a bush, vine, root, or tree.**
- **Poison Oak is usually not found above 4000 feet elevation**
- **The Pacific Coast Species is shrubby or sometimes a climbing plant that grows to 8 ft high.**

Poison Oak has three leaflet leaves that are toothed or lobed and are hairless



Poison Oak and Blackberry



berry

oak

Poison Oak or Not Poison Oak



Wild Oak



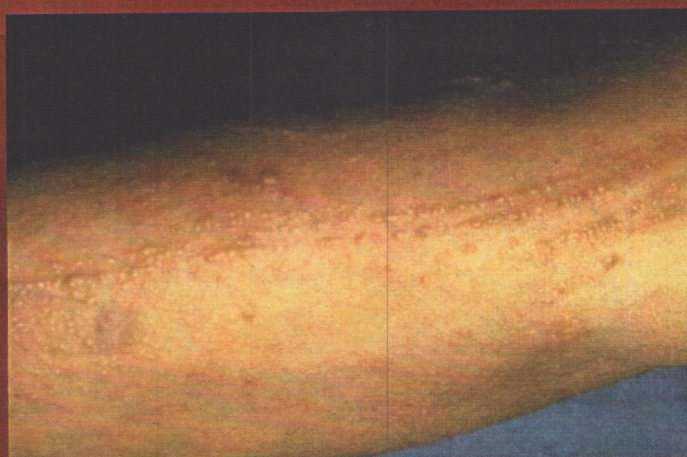
Five
Leaflet
Whorls
vs.
Three

1/11/2011

Poison Oak in Bloom



Poison Oak Rash



Poison Oak Rash

- Rash is caused by an oil present in the leaves, branches, and roots of the plant.
- Once touched the oil is absorbed into the skin.
- Rash is the result of the body's immune system fighting against the poison.

Modes of Entry into the Skin

- You can get Poison Oak by touching the plant, its leaves, roots directly.
- If an animal, such as your dog, gets in poison oak you can contract from petting the dog.
- You can get it from your clothing that touches Poison Oak.

Can Poison Oak Be Spread By Scratching ?

- **The Rash cannot spread by scratching.**
- **The oil that seeps from the rash is not poison oak, the signs of spreading is usually due to secondary infection.**
- **Must ensure to wash clothing immediately after contacting poison oak in order to prevent new infection.**

How to minimize infection

- **Take shower as soon as possible**
- **Make sure clothes worn are kept separate in a bag and wash before touching to prevent new infection.**
- **Hot water does not minimize infection, it only temporarily relieves itching.**
- **Hydrocortisone and other skin lotions do not work.**
- **May want to visit doctor to receive prescription for Prednisone. Very effective but should only take for one week to avoid infection.**