



Your Information Resource for Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac

Volume 1, Issue 3

Welcome to the Zanfel Zone! Fall is here. That means many people are not thinking about poison ivy while they are enjoying the great outdoors. Below are some articles that cover fall related poison ivy issues.

This issue also begins a series where we will feature a different Zanfel employee. We'd like you to get to know us!

Dan Boelman RN, BSN



Introducing Dan Boelman, Zanfel's Customer Service Manager. Dan's responsibilities at Zanfel include handling customer service calls, and educating consumers and healthcare providers about poison ivy, oak & sumac.

In his free time, Dan enjoys spending time with his family, golfing, fishing, and growing giant garden vegetables. This year he entered his 481 pound pumpkin in the weigh-off at the Anamosa, Iowa

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Poison Ivy Leaves In Autumn

Poison ivy leaves are usually some of the first leaves to change colors at the beginning of autumn. They typically turn from green to yellow, and then to a brilliant red. When you go hiking or are near woods this time of year, poison ivy and a few other plants may be the only ones with yellow or red leaves, while the rest are still green. Don't be fooled by these pretty yellow or red leaves – they still contain the poison ivy plant's toxin, urushiol. Below are a few pictures of poison ivy leaves in the fall.



Fall Yard Clean Up

Now is the time of year when the leaves begin to fall, and we clean up our yards and gardens. As you rake or mow the fallen leaves, be aware if there are any poison ivy, oak, or sumac plants nearby. Dead leaves and twigs from these plants can remain toxic for years after they leave the plant. We heard an incredible story last fall of a mom and her son who were stuffing fall leaves into a scarecrow.

Keep Poison Ivy, Oak & Sumac Out Of Fires

If you dispose of dead leaves and other plant material this fall by burning it, be very careful to keep poison ivy, oak, and sumac leaves and twigs out of the fire. The plants' toxin, urushiol, is stable at high temperatures, and the plant particles dispersed in the smoke are allergenic and irritant.

Collecting Firewood For The Winter

While collecting firewood for the winter, be sure to inspect the woodpile for the presence of poison ivy vines that may have gotten mixed in. A section of a poison ivy vine may even cling to an individual piece of wood.

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