

identifying poison ivy

. : leaves : .

Look for three leaves, usually but not always jagged. When jagged, the central leaf is more or less symmetrical; if you were to fold it in half (but please, don't) the edges would more or less line up. The two side leaves, though, tend to be more jagged on the outer edge than on the inner edge. If the leaves are nearly or entirely smooth, the same principle applies in a way; the central leaf is generally symmetrical, with the main leaf vein running down the center of the leaf, whereas in the two side leaves, the main leaf vein isn't centered; there is more leaf surface on the outside edge.

jagged leaves



smooth leaves



Where the leaf stems come together, there is usually a slightly reddish coloration.

The thin leaf stem arises from a thicker, woodier vine, which can manifest as a ground cover, a small shrub or can climb trees.



climbing ivy



ground cover



bush

. : vines : .

The vine attaches to the tree by the means of numerous hairs, ranging from robin's chest color amber to grayish brown. Old vines can appear totally covered by hair, or almost bare.



. : flowers & berries : .

Both the flowers and berries of Poison Ivy begin green and turn to white; the berries may persist into the fall, although many are eaten by birds.



. : additional pictures : .



drooping ivy leaves



single leaflets from stem



young glossy leaves