

# Get Leaf Savvy

If you're taking a walk on the wild side or trimming brush in your yard, be wary of poison oak, sumac and ivy. Look out for these leaves.

## Poison Oak



3 leaves  
(never 5)

Looks similar to  
poison ivy

No thorns

Leaf groups  
grow in an  
alternating pattern  
on the stem

Grows in dry, sandy  
areas as a vine or  
small shrub

Less common  
than poison ivy

## Poison Sumac



Grows as a small  
tree only in wet areas  
(often in mud)

**Red** stems

Oblong, tapered leaves

Wavy or smooth-  
edged leaves (not  
saw-toothed)

Parallel rows of  
upward growing  
leaves

May have **pale yellow**  
or **green flowers** in  
spring or summer,  
**green berries** in fall

## Poison Ivy



3 leaves  
(never 5)

no thorns

Leaves may be  
rounded or have  
points

Leaf groups grow  
in an alternating  
pattern on the stem  
(not directly across  
from each other)

Leaves may be **red**  
or **green**, even  
**slightly yellow**

Very common

## Virginia Creeper



Five leaves

Not poisonous

Often mistaken  
for poison ivy

Grows as a vine