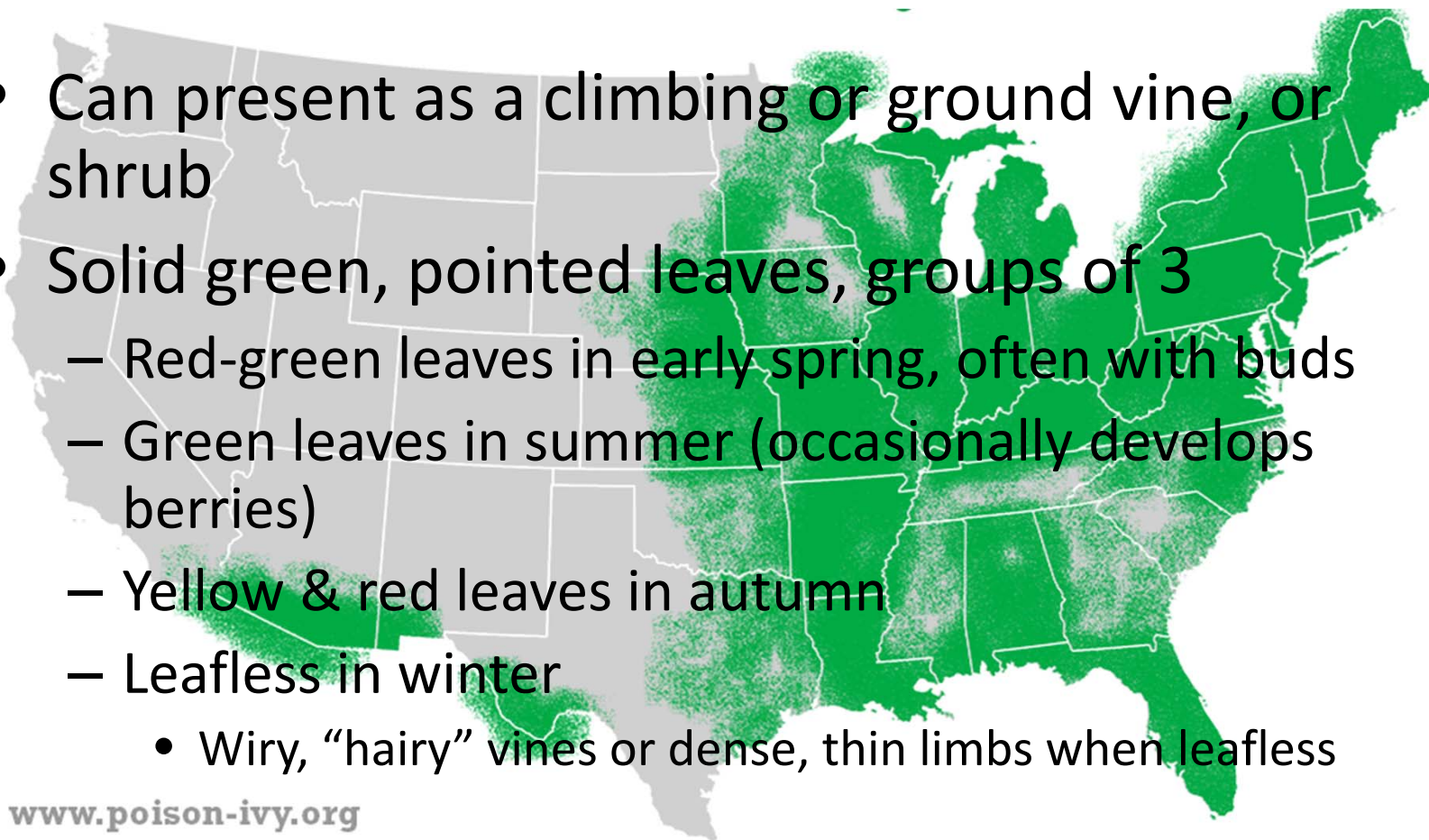


Poisonous Plant Identification Cheat Sheet

Created by: Hannah Yost

Poison Ivy – Eastern Variety

- Can present as a climbing or ground vine, or shrub
- Solid green, pointed leaves, groups of 3
 - Red-green leaves in early spring, often with buds
 - Green leaves in summer (occasionally develops berries)
 - Yellow & red leaves in autumn
 - Leafless in winter
 - Wiry, “hairy” vines or dense, thin limbs when leafless

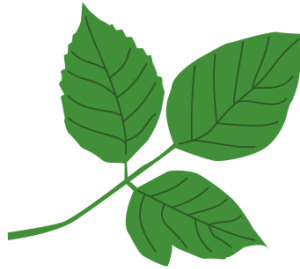


Eastern Poison Ivy

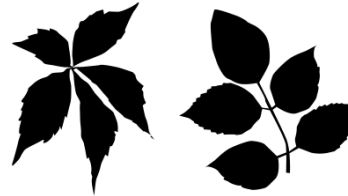
In spring → some leaves may be red & others green; may develop yellow-green flowers

In summer → young leaves small & red while older are green; as CO₂ exposure increases, ivy grows larger and more potent; leaves can be deeply notched, similar to oak; when growing near water, it becomes waxy, curly; can have red leaf edges & red stems (less common); with little to no water, leaves will wilt, yellow, and droop; grows in wet & dry locations and is VERY COMMON along the coast; loves the sun

Poison Ivy ALWAYS has LEAVES of THREE



NEVER HAS MORE



Poison Ivy ALWAYS GROWS LEFT THEN RIGHT



NEVER SIDE BY SIDE

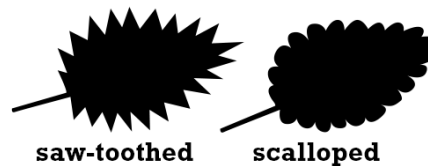


NEVER HAS THORNS



of any kind

NEVER HAVE EDGES LIKE THESE



saw-toothed

scalloped

In fall → one of first plants to turn fall colors; visible berries (DO NOT EAT!); plants may turn colors in stages; loses leaves early in fall; oil that causes rashes withdraws from leaves and into stems and roots

In winter → vines only hairy beyond a certain size; branches travel in all directions; burning wood with vines or branches intermixed are sure ways to obtain a rash

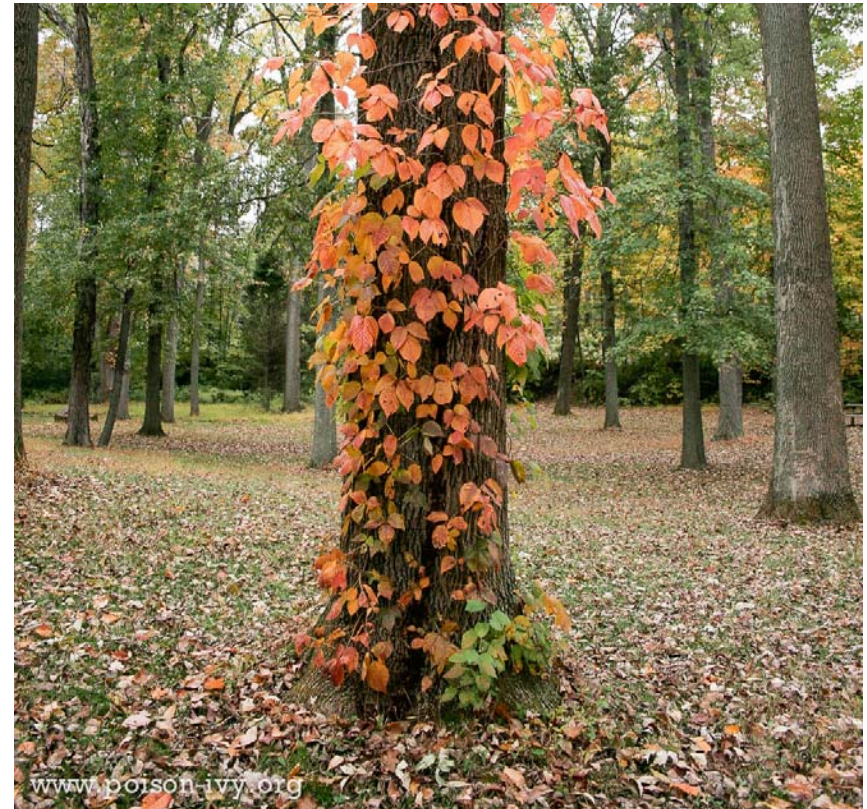
Eastern Poison Ivy - Spring



Eastern Poison Ivy - Summer



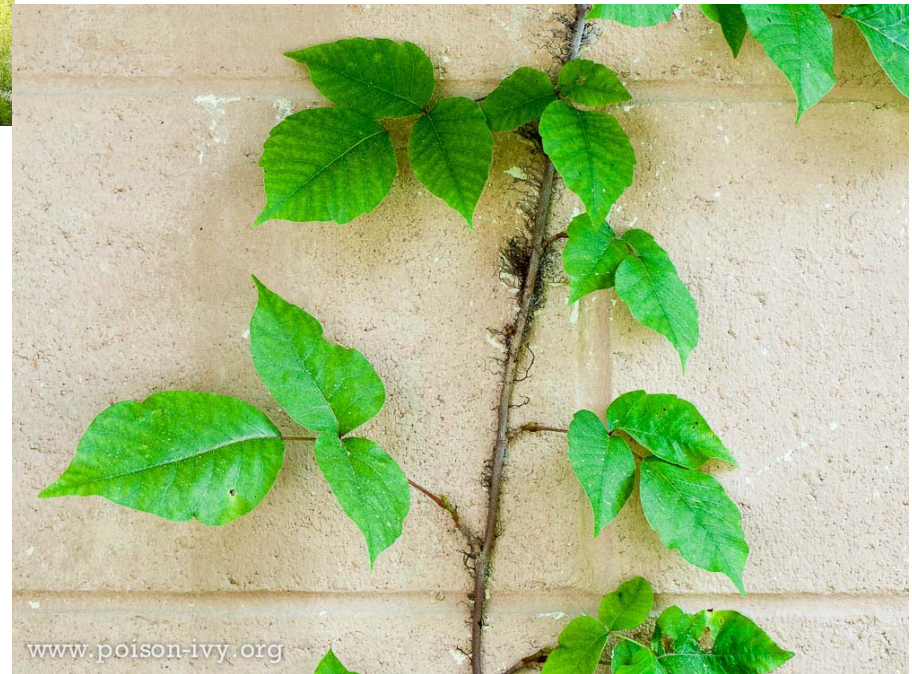
Eastern Poison Ivy – Fall



Eastern Poison Ivy – Winter

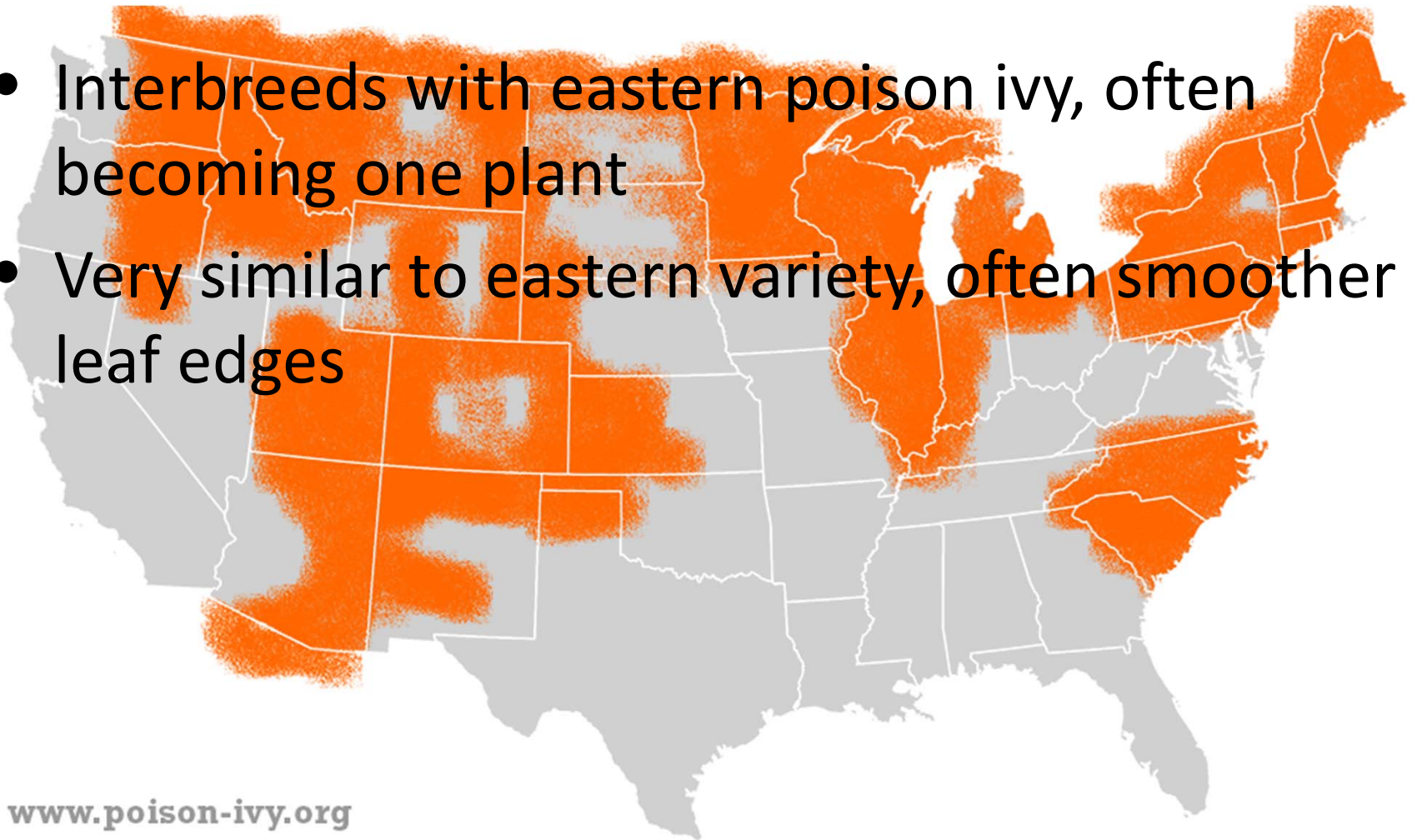


Eastern Poison Ivy – Shrub vs Vine



Poison Ivy – Western Variety

- Interbreeds with eastern poison ivy, often becoming one plant
- Very similar to eastern variety, often smoother leaf edges



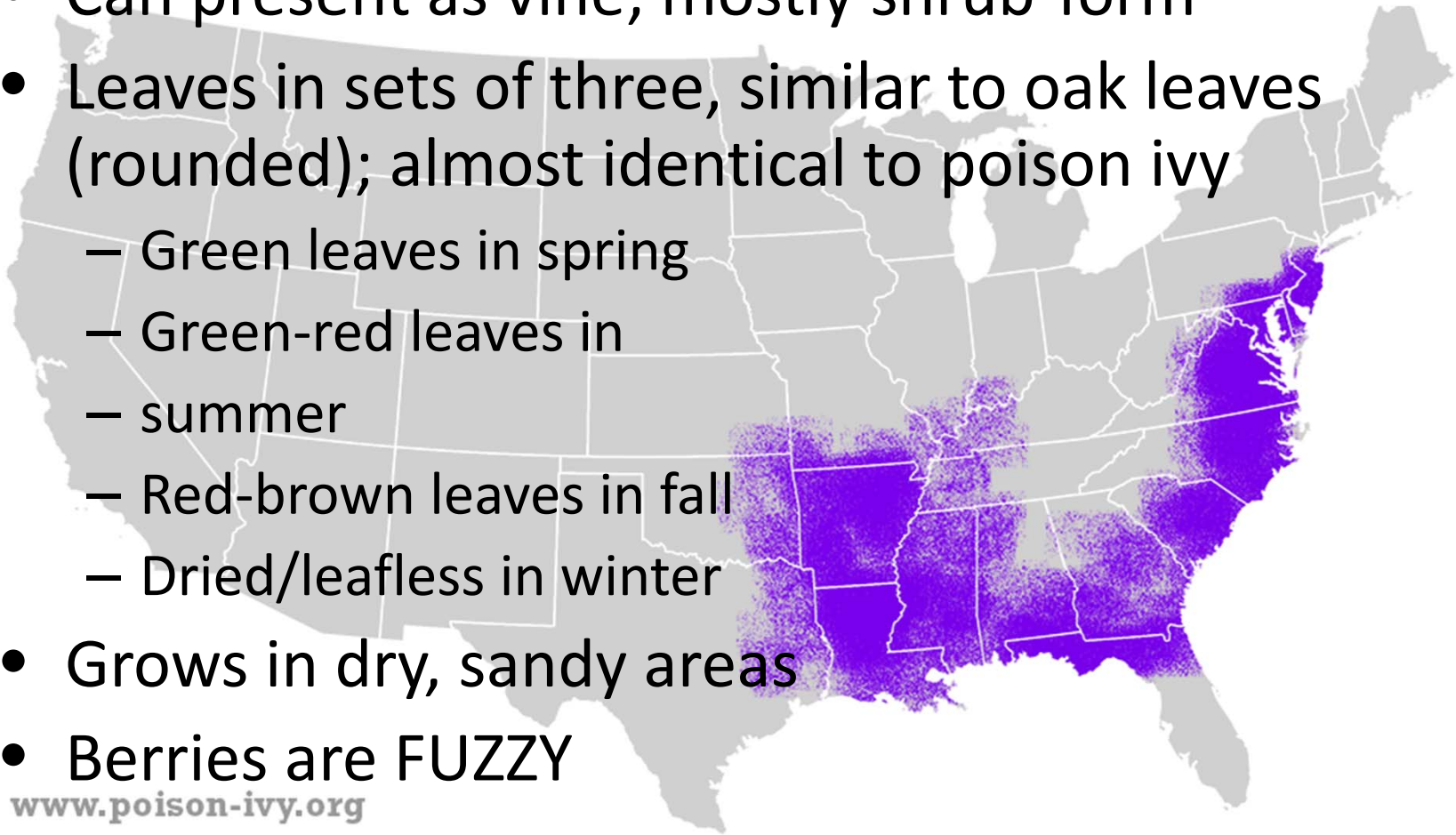
Western Poison Ivy



Poison Oak

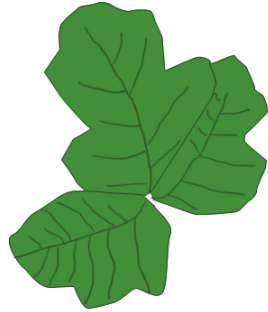
- Can present as vine; mostly shrub-form
- Leaves in sets of three, similar to oak leaves (rounded); almost identical to poison ivy
 - Green leaves in spring
 - Green-red leaves in
 - summer
 - Red-brown leaves in fall
 - Dried/leafless in winter
- Grows in dry, sandy areas
- Berries are FUZZY

www.poison-ivy.org

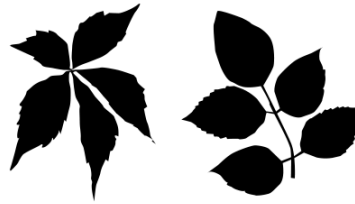


Poison Oak

**Atlantic Poison Oak
ALWAYS has
LEAVES of THREE**



NEVER HAS MORE



**Atlantic Poison Oak
ALWAYS GROWS
LEFT THEN RIGHT**



NEVER SIDE BY SIDE

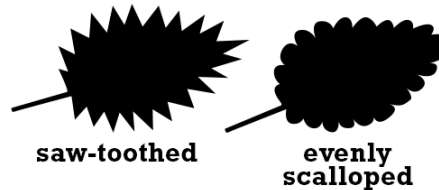


NEVER HAS THORNS



of any kind

**NEVER HAS
EDGES LIKE THESE**



saw-toothed

evenly
scalloped

Poison Oak



Poison Sumac Small Tree Found Only in Wet Areas

- Relatively rare; typical in wetland habitat
- Presents as small, thin trees/shrubs
- Enjoys VERY wet habitats
- Has red stems, smooth leaf edges

Poison Sumac



Poisonwood Tree

- Close relative of the other poisons
- Abundant in Florida Keys, southern Florida
- Leaves in groups of five to seven
 - Speckled black when they age
- Thick, orange bark



Treatment

- After any possible exposure, IMMEDIATELY wash area with either soap and cool water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (hot water can spread the rash)
 - There is a small 20-30 minute window to get the urushiol oils off of your skin before causing a rash
- If rash appears, apply a scrub such as Tecnu which helps to neutralize the oils and dry the rash OR calamine lotion
 - Avoid excessive heat (hot showers/baths, etc.) and wind as these can cause the rash to become worse or persist for longer amounts of time; DO NOT SCRATCH THE RASH!
- If rash persists or swelling becomes apparent, especially in sensitive areas such as face, hands, or groin, seek medical attention
 - Likely treatment will be steroids and a topical cream
- Probiotics and holistic herbs are available to help lessen the effects of poison rashes, but must be taken as a preventive measure prior to any possible exposure

Sources

- Photographs from Google & www.poison-ivy.org
- Much information from www.poison-ivy.org