

Carel's Pharmacy & Compounding Center

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Poison Ivy, Poison Oak & Poison Sumac

Poison Ivy, Poison Oak & Poison Sumac are the most common cause of allergic reactions in the United States. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, approximately 85 percent of the population will develop an allergic reaction if exposed to poison ivy, poison oak or poison sumac. These poison plants grow almost everywhere in the United States except Hawaii, Alaska and some desert areas in the Western United States. Poison Plant rash is an allergic contact dermatitis caused by contact with oil called urushiol, a chemical in the sap of the plant. Urushiol is released when the plant is damaged. Contact with urushiol can occur in three ways: direct contact—touching the sap of the toxic plant; indirect contact — touching something on which urushiol is present. The oil can stick to the fur of animals, to garden tools or sports equipment, or to any objects that have come into contact with it; airborne contact — burning poison plants put urushiol particles into the air. When urushiol gets on the skin, it begins to penetrate in minutes. A reaction appears, usually within 12 to 48 hours. There is severe itching, redness, and swelling, followed by blisters. The rash is often arranged in streaks or lines where the person brushed against the plant. In a few days, the blisters become crusted and take 10 days or longer to heal.

Treatment for Poison Ivy, Poison Oak & Poison Sumac

When exposed to poison ivy, poison oak or poison sumac it is essential to clean the urushiol off the skin as quickly as possible. If a rash occurs, there are treatments for temporary relief of the itching associated with poison ivy, poison oak & poison sumac. These treatments for itch include: Poison Ivy Gel and topical corticosteroids.

This month's featured compound is **Poison Ivy Gel**.

Poison Ivy Gel offers patients relief from the itching associated with contact dermatitis such as poison ivy. Patients sensitive to poison ivy tend to suffer miserably after exposure. They often experience severe itching, which is resistant to most over the counter treatments. Poison Ivy Gel contains Menthol, Camphor and Trolamine in a transparent gel. It is applied three to four times daily to affected area as needed.

If you have any questions regarding these therapies or any other medication related problems, please call our specially trained compounding pharmacists and staff at (580) 355-4540.