

Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)

Origin: Native.

Status in Park: Abundant, usually as low-growing plants in shady areas or less often as tree-climbing vines. Efforts are made to clear it from along trails, but hikers should be careful to avoid it.

Characteristics: Can grow as small plants, shrubs, or climbing vines; larger vines have gray bark and cling tightly to trees with numerous aerial roots; flowers are small and greenish, in loose clusters, appear in May-June, are easily overlooked; fruit small whitish berries that mature between August and November.

Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound; leaflets are 3 in number, pointed, and 2-7 inches long; edges have a small number of coarse teeth; color glossy green.



Location of tagged plants (ground cover and vines):



Notes: The main feature is that all parts of the plant are allergenic and cause a serious rash. An oil called urushiol is responsible for this. However, the berries are valuable food for birds and other wildlife.