



MICHIGAN POISON & DRUG
INFORMATION CENTER
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

POISONOUS PLANTS

Poisonous plants can be found throughout wooded areas, trails, shorelines and anywhere other outdoor plant growth is present.

Poison ivy, giant hogweed, wild parsnips and poison hemlock are among the most common poisonous plants found outdoors in our state and are invasive species.

POISON IVY



POISON HEMLOCK



GIANT HOGWEED



WILD PARSNIP



POISON IVY

(*Toxicodendron radicans*)

Poison ivy is among the most common poisonous plants found outdoors.

Poison ivy is easily hidden by other plant growth. It is identifiable by leaves growing in groupings of three. Contact the skin is the most common route for toxicity.

POISON HEMLOCK

(*Conium maculatum*)

Poison hemlock is primarily found on the lower west side of the lower peninsula of Michigan.

This plant prefers moist shaded areas to grow. Stems are green with purple spots. Leaves are triangular and lacey. Blooms are small, white flowers that cluster. Ingestion or eating is the most common route for toxicity.



WILD PARSNIP

(*Pastinaca Sativa*)



Wild parsnips grow to 5 feet tall and grow yellow/green flowers in umbrella shape clusters. Stems are green.

GIANT HOGWEED

(*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)



Giant hogweed grow 7 to 14 feet tall with white blooms up to 2.5 feet across. Stems are green with purple splotching.

Contact with the skin is the most common route for toxicity for both of these plants.

EXPOSURE & TREATMENT

SKIN EXPOSURES

Immediately after touching plants:

1. Remove contaminated clothing
2. Wash skin well with soap & water
3. Wash all contaminated clothing in hot water and detergent

Localized Skin Reactions (Minor)

- Itching
- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

*Call your local poison center or physician for treatment recommendations.

SEVERE EXPOSURES

- NEVER BURN poison ivy
- NEVER EAT any part of these plants. Life threatening symptoms are possible.
- Call 911 IMMEDIATELY if anyone develops difficulty breathing or generalized swelling to the face or neck
- Seek medical care if large blisters or intense pain occurs
- If symptoms develop around the eye, seek care in an emergency room or with an eye doctor

*Breathing in smoke or eating poison ivy can cause fatal injuries.



MICHIGAN POISON & DRUG
INFORMATION CENTER

1-800-222-1222

Available 24/7

MIPOISONHELP.ORG

