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TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

RISK REMINDER



POISON SUMAC

POISON OAK



POISON IVY

Question Asked: I found this growing up the base of a tree, about a foot high, at a campground. Someone said it was poison oak, but I wanted to be sure.

Answer:

That's definitely poison ivy. First off, poison oak in vine form is found only in the western-most states. Poison oak in shrub form is found in Illinois though it is elusive. Of the two, poison ivy and poison oak, poison ivy is the most variable as to leaflet shape. Poison oak leaflets look like small white oak leaves. Poison ivy leaflets may be smooth, lobed, toothed or a combination of all of those. The one striking characteristic here that points to poison ivy is the pointed middle leaflet. Poison oak middle leaflet is more rounded in appearance. That's a lovely little plant you've taken a picture of and left undisturbed it will gladly climb the tree to great heights.

For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (800) 252-5059, ext. 1387 or 1384.

CLAIM REPORTING HOTLINE (844) 562-2720 | Available 24/7