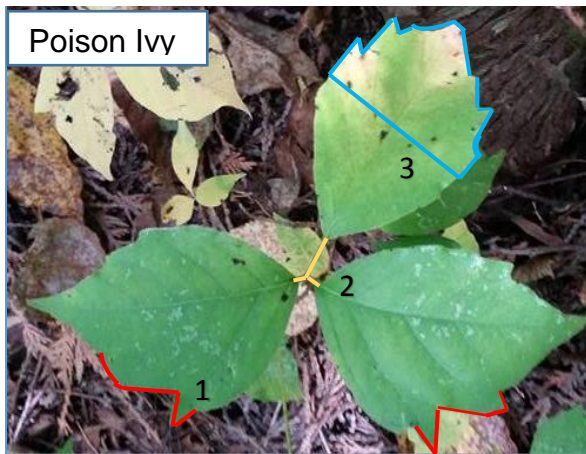


Poison Ivy and Sumac

Contact with poison ivy and poison sumac can result in painful rashes caused by an oil on the plant. The oil can be transferred to the skin either directly or through cross-contamination with equipment and/or clothing and can be contracted from the plant any time of the year.

Poison Ivy

Poison ivy can be found as a low lying herbaceous plant or as a climbing vine. The leaves hang from the stem in groups of three. The lobes on the bottom edge of the lower leaves are more distinct than the top edges (1), the middle stem is longer than the other two (2), and the middle leaf is only lobed on the top half of the leaf (3). Some leaves are also completely smooth.



(Kellar, 2015)

Poison Sumac

Poison Sumac takes form as a small shrub to tree ranging anywhere between 1.5 to 7m high. The plant has red stems containing 7 to 13 leaflets. Each leaflet is between 4 and 10cm long and between $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{5}$ as wide.

The leaflets appear bright orange but change to dark green and glossy mid-season finishing off with a bright red/ orange coloration, before falling from the stalk. Produces dull white flowers in July, and whitish berries. Typically found in wet woods and on the edges of swamps and lakes.



(Beaulieu, 2015)

Wild Parsnip and Giant Hogweed

The sap of these plants contain chemicals that react with skin and cause photodermatitis, a condition where the skin becomes more sensitive to UV rays. The reaction can result in severe burns and blisters that result in long-term scars.

Wild Parsnip

The leaves of Wild Parsnip are heavily toothed and can have a distinct mitten shape. The plant has 5 to 7 leaflets per leaf that form a diamond shape leaflet structure. The plant produces clusters of individual small bright yellow flowers, 10 to 20cm in diameter. Wild parsnip can grow to a height of 50 to 150cm.



(WiseAcre Gardens, 2015)

Giant Hogweed



(GBNNS, 2009)

Giant Hogweed can grow to be up to 5m once fully grown. The plant lives its first year as just a rosette of leaves and matures to develop a tall stalk. The leaves can be a meter wide with jagged deeply cut leaflets. The stem is hollow, similar to bamboo, and is covered in red blotches and bristles. Once the Giant Hogweed starts to flower it creates a large white umbrella of flowers. The flower cluster can be up to 120cm wide containing 30 to 50 branches with 30 to 40 white flowers, each. Flowers from June to August.

Stinging Nettle

Stinging Nettle is covered in sharp hollow hairs that can inject irritating chemicals into the skin if contact occurs. Reaction to the chemical can result in an itchy and burning sensation that may last for more than 12 hours. Stinging nettle can grow 1 to 2m in height. The leaves have serrated edges and are usually 10 to 15cm in length. Each layer of leaves is perpendicular to the layer above and below it.



Stinging Nettle

(Audet, 2015)

Working with Hazardous Plants

- ✓ Wear long pants and long sleeve clothing when working outside to protect yourself
- ✓ Wash or dispose of all equipment that may have come into contact with plants
- ✓ Wash affected area with soap and cool water
- ✗ **Do not** burn or use power tools near Hazardous Plants
- ✗ **Do not** wash skin in warm or hot water
- ✗ **Do not** attempt to remove any hazardous plants. Plants should be removed by trained personal.

Sources of Information

David Beaulieu, (2015), *Picture of Poison Sumac Leaves* [ONLINE]. Available at [:http://landscaping.about.com/od/weedsdiseases/ig/Poison-Sumac-Pictures/Poison-Sumac-Leaves.htm](http://landscaping.about.com/od/weedsdiseases/ig/Poison-Sumac-Pictures/Poison-Sumac-Leaves.htm)

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GBNNSS, (2009), *2009 - Invasive Plant Survey* [ONLINE]. Available at: <http://www.ea-cei.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/giant-hogweed.jpg>.

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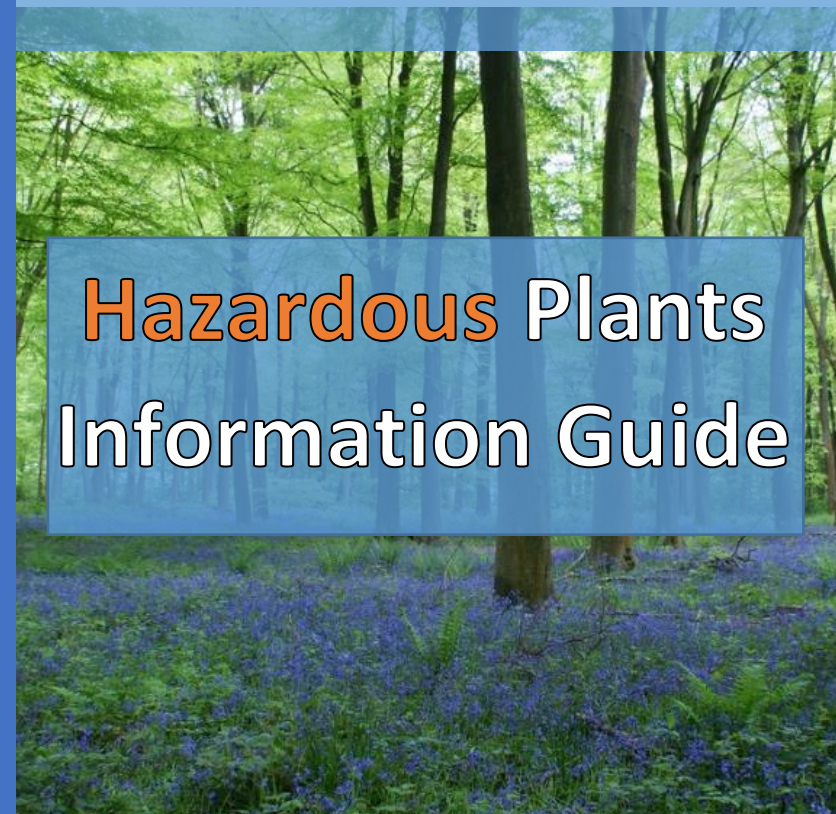
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Ontario Minister of Labour. 2015. *Protecting Outdoor Workers from Hazardous Plants* . [ONLINE] Available at: http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pubs/hazardous_plants.php

Invading Species. 2015. *Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Plan*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.invadingspecies.com/>.

If you spot Giant Hogweed, Poison Ivy, or Wild Parsnip please notify the County Weed Inspector at: 705-742-4862

Peterborough County



Hazardous Plants Information Guide

