



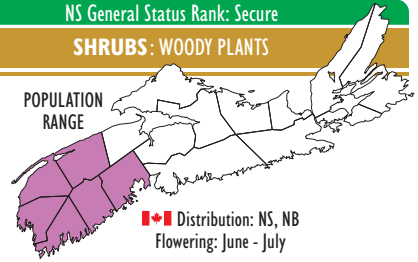
Eastern Poison-Ivy

Toxicodendron radicans ssp. *radicans*

NS General Status Rank: Secure

SHRUBS : WOODY PLANTS

POPULATION RANGE



Distribution: NS, NB
Flowering: June - July



Ground-level Poison Ivy

© DAVID MAZEROLLE

SIZE: Grows as a climbing vine or shrub, up to 1 m tall. Can reach heights of 2 m or taller, especially near southern NS salt marshes.

LEAVES: Three oval leaflets with pointed tips that branch from a single stem, typically 5-15 cm wide. The center leaf has a longer stalk. Leaf edges are typically smooth but may have irregular teeth near the end.

STEM: Smooth, woody, reddish-brown and up to 3 cm wide.

FLOWERS: Greenish-white with 5 petals, 1-2 cm wide. Flowers are in clusters of 25 or greater.

FRUITS: Greyish-white, grape-like hanging clusters (drupes).

NOTES: This species has variable forms. It can grow as a trailing vine on the ground, as a shrub, or as a climbing vine.



Climbing vine

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Grape-like drupes

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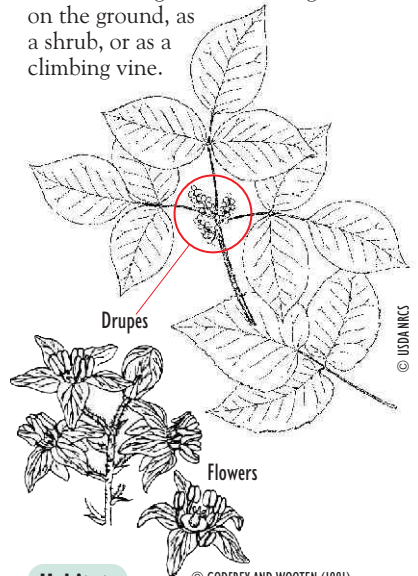


Red fall leaves

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Drupes

Flowers

© USDA NRCS

Similar Species:

Western Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*) is quite similar but has broader leaves and the middle leaf is on a shorter stalk. It is found in stony or rocky damp areas. There are no other *Toxicodendron radicans* ssp. in NS.

Hog-peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*) has groups of three leaves and is a trailing vine along river banks, but never has a woody stem or irregular teeth around the leaf edges. It is not common in southwest NS.



Hog-peanut

© SEAN BLANEY

Habitat:

Low-lying areas, shrub or forest margins along lakeshores and stream banks, salt marsh margins and red maple swamps.

Interesting point: "Leaves of three let it be!"

This plant can cause severe skin irritation because it produces a skin-irritating oil called urushiol. Do not burn or mow this plant because the oil can become airborne. If you do come in contact, the leaves of Spotted Touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*) can be crushed and rubbed on the skin for relief.

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