Poison Ivy

Today on Gardening in a Minute: poison ivy.

In the spring, many people become active in their yards and gardens. Unfortunately, that often means an encounter with poison ivy.

Poison ivy is a vine that grows in yards, along fences, and around trees, and usually has three leaflets that are slightly serrated.

Contact with the oils found in poison ivy can cause painful, itchy blisters. You can encounter the oils by touching any part of the plant, or by touching animals or clothes that have come in contact with it. The telltale signs typically appear 24 to 72 hours after contact.

Remove poison ivy from the landscape only when wearing gloves, which should immediately be washed separate from the other laundry.

Finally, don’t burn the plant, because even the smoke can carry toxins.

For more information on poison ivy and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.