

FLOUR and FLOWERS OF SULPHUR

Whale-Oil Soap and other Insecticides *For Sale*
by

E. O. PAINTER FERTILIZER CO., Jacksonville, Fla.

Handle With Care.

Rhus toxicodendron, commonly called "poison ivy," is quite abundant in many parts of the state. Rhus venenata, usually known as "poison sumac" or "poison dogwood" is said to grow in Florida though we have never seen it. As the latter is only found in swamps it is not so dangerous as the poison ivy which climbs over fences and trees on dry land. Besides the remedies mentioned below you will find that common baking soda, found in almost every kitchen, is about as good as anything and has the advantage of being always at hand when needed. The last is important for the sooner the remedy is applied, after touching the vine, the better the effect.

The Indiana Farmer says: So long as the present fad for nature study holds its interest, it is well to remember that all is not gold that glitters, and that among the luxuriant undergrowths of our favorite pathway may lurk plant enemies that it is not safe to ignore. Principally these that take the form of invidious ivy and subtle sumac, which we must give due recognition lest we suffer the consequence.

After a long, warm walk, it is very refreshing to drop down on some moss-covered log overhung with luxuriant vines that will afford us welcome shelter from the hot sun, but when, as a result of such a performance, in the course of a few days, our hands and faces become masses of inflamed flesh, and our eyelids are so swollen that they will not admit the light of day, we begin to wish that our knowledge of plant life was a bit extensive, and that we had, in the days of our youth, "read up" on the nature and appearance of our poisonous neighbors, and learned to discriminate between the just and the unjust.

It has been said that the poison ivy is more "touchy" in the spring and early summer, when it is full of fresh young blood. However this may be, I have seen severe cases of poisoning late in the summer and fall, and even the dry winter branches can get in some very effective work upon occasion, hence it is not safe to assume that any season is immune.

Notwithstanding the fact that the poison ivy is a common growth and many persons suffer from its contact, it is an enemy that one can easily avoid, for it openly flaunts its distinguishing "hall marks" by which we can identify it. It has been mistaken by careless observers for the luxuriant Virginia creeper or woodbine so common in all sections, an error for which neither the woodbine nor ivy is responsible, for they are quite unlike in their appearance, though fond of a similar habitat, both loving to climb to the top of any tall tree that will permit the familiarity. The woodbine, however, hangs on by means of numerous greenish tendrils, while the ivy clings tightly and secures a firmer hold by throwing out aerial rootlets which burrow deep into the rough bark.

The most noticeable difference lies in the arrangement of the leaflets;

on the woodbine, the leaf consists of five divisions or leaflets, while the poison ivy has but three; hence it is safer to avoid contact with any three-fingered vine that is clinging confidently about the trunk of a friendly tree, or lazily over-running an old fence. The leaflets of the ivy are smooth and shining, light green, toothless and usually ovate pointed, without lobes, or, at least, only slightly notched, while the woodbine is dull colored and its leaflets are deeply toothed.

Later in the year, the gray-white berries distinguish the poison growth from other climbing plants which bear purple, crimson, or blue fruits. It has been said that one may eat both leaves and fruit of the ivy and live to tell the tale; but it is an experiment best left to the pileated woodpeckers of powerful beak, who are remarkably fond of these berries and gobble them down as though they found in them some savory flavor to their taste. Those who ought to know, affirm that it has been demonstrated that the plant's poisonous secretions act only through contact, but many persons insist that they are affected by merely looking at the vine in passing.

One of the most effective antidotes for ivy poisoning is to bathe the afflicted parts with a lotion made of one part tincture of grindelia and four parts water, used freely and frequently. If not applied soon enough to stop the irritation, a thorough and persistent use will prevent its spreading.

A somewhat less common plant foe, is the poison sumac, Rhus venenata, which is even more dangerous than ivy, as its "bite" is more severe and lasting. This reprehensible member of an otherwise harmless and well behaved family, is frequently to be found growing in swampy or low ground, so one is not quite as liable to come in contact with its poisonous branches as though it grew in more favorable situations. It is a handsome shrub, and attracts the artistic eye, but beware of its deceptive charms for they conceal a multitude of sins—from the human standpoint. To detect the true from the false, it should be noted that the common sumac has from 9 to 31 toothed leaflets, which are green above and grayish on the under side, while the poisonous has from 7 to 13 leaflets, green on both sides, and like those of the ivy are without teeth. The leaf scar of the harmless variety is heart-shaped, and on the poison takes the form of a spade, but this mark can be discovered only by stripping off the leaves, a dangerous performance at all times.

The fruit of the poison sumac is greenish white and springs from the axils of the leaves, while the harmless shrub bears clusters of crimson berries on the terminals of the twigs. These are very conspicuous on account of their vivid coloring. The autumnal foliage of both poison plants is markedly brilliant, taking on all the golden tints of a rich sunset as though eager to celebrate the closing days of an eventful season, and a life from a plant's possible standpoint. But this conspicuous gilding renders them particularly seductive to lovers of decorative foliage, who are eager to bring

home the leaf-laden branches, but one experience usually discourages all desire for further intimacy. The myrtle warblers congregate in flocks to feast off the livid sumac fruit and rest in safety on its baneful branches. Perhaps the plant realizes that only by the aid of some winged guest can the small seeds be transported to new countries, and so regulates its venom according to its guests.

Ivy poisoning is so distressing and most people are so easily affected that we willingly give space to these accounts of the plants and to the remedies. The following from the Country Gentleman gives some additional information on the subject.

Remedies for Ivy Poisoning.

Make a strong solution of sugar of lead by covering it with hot water; when cool, with soft linen dipped in the solution, bathe the affected surface several times a day and at night apply bandages saturated with the solution, which, if convenient, need not be removed if kept wet.

When there is no abrasion of the skin, a paste of gunpowder and whisky may be effective. Pour water over unslaked lime, stir, and let stand an hour. Continued applications will sometimes greatly relieve.

What is efficacious for one person cannot always be relied on for another. The following remedies have proved efficacious:

The inner bark of the common elder steeped in buttermilk; milk-weed juice; poultices of bruised bean or plantain leaves; applications of raw sliced onion; borax water, etc.

Diluted bromo-chloralum cured a very bad case. A slice of bread saturated with hot water and sprinkled with soda, another. A farm lad who was in our employ was very badly poisoned on his lower extremities, and was cured by applications of soft soap.

As soon as the poison manifests itself, painting around the spot with a feather dipped in iodine may arrest the spread. Why suffer the pain, intolerable itching and smarting, when such an array of tested remedies are accessible?

Period of Heat in Stock, and Breeding.

The information contained in the following, from Wallace's Farmer, will be found valuable to stock breeders of all kinds.

A correspondent asks how long the domestic animals remain in heat, and how often the period of heat occurs. This varies with different animals. The period of heat in the mare occurs at intervals of eighteen to twenty-one days and the average duration is two to three days; in cattle the period occurs about every twenty-one days and continues from twelve to thirty hours; in ewes every sixteen to seventeen days and continues two or three days; in sows fifteen to twenty-one days and the average duration of heat is one to three days. In some cases the period of heat will pass unnoticed unless the male is present, and for this reason animals that are difficult to "catch" should be permitted to run

with the male where practicable. But as a rule the male should not be allowed to run with the females as the single service will, in the great majority of cases, be found to produce better results and more vigorous offspring. Occasionally an animal will be found that is continually in heat; such a cow is known as a "buller." This is generally the result of a diseased condition of the ovaries, and unless the animal is especially valuable and treatment seems justified it will be better to dispose of such animals on the market. Treatment in such cases is not very satisfactory and the chances are against recovery.

The secret of success in mating is the vitality and age of the animals used. Perhaps more breeders go wrong by using immature stock for breeding purposes and by using them too hard than in any other way. No otherwise sane man should expect an overworked stallion, bull, or boar to get vigorous, well developed offspring that will have a fair start in life and an even chance to reach useful maturity and leave the farm at marketable age at a snug profit to the breeder. Sixty to eighty mares for a matured stallion, twenty-five to thirty-five cows for a bull, twenty to forty ewes to a ram, and twenty to fifty sows to a boar is the limit under the best handling and care. Better buy an extra sire or two or rent one at a good price than overtax this half of the herd.

It takes a brave man to acknowledge his errors.

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