



Your Information Resource for Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac

Volume 4, Issue 2

Welcome back to the Zanafel Zone. We hope you had an awesome summer and were able to steer clear of poison ivy, oak, and sumac!

Fall is a great time for camping, hiking, vacations and yard work. These outdoor activities are all opportunities to tangle with poison ivy, oak, and sumac. Please contact us if you have questions about Zanafel Poison Ivy, Oak & Sumac Wash, or about poison ivy in general.

If you or a family member breaks out with a poison ivy, oak, or sumac rash, Zanafel can be found in the first aid section of your local pharmacy, and on Amazon.com

Epic Discovery: A Plant That Is Both Poison Ivy AND Poison Oak

In 1805 Lewis and Clark camped overnight on the banks of the Columbia River near Memaloose Island. 209 years later another set of explorers set out on an important, although much more modest mission to find the only area in our country where it's known that western poison ivy and western poison oak grow side by side and have actually hybridized.

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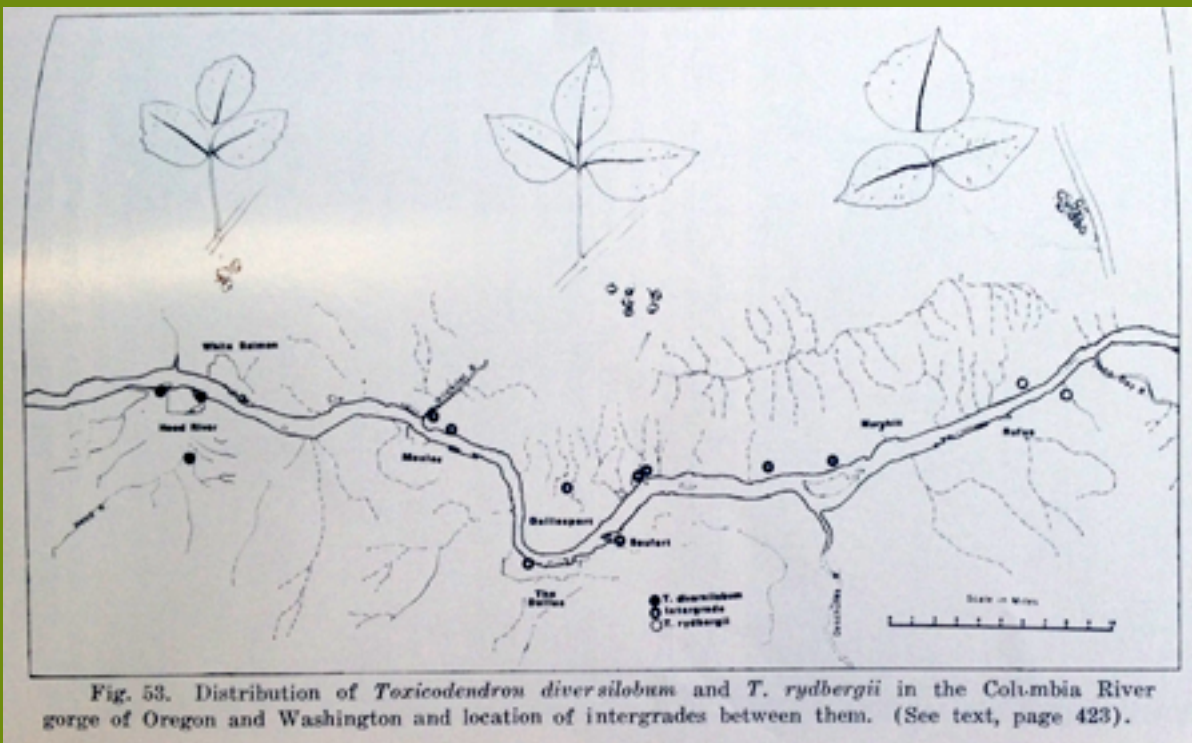
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In the Columbia River gorge between Washington and Oregon there is an overlap in the range of western poison oak (*T. diversilobum*) and western poison ivy (*T. rydbergii*). In the early 1960's, world class botanist and plant researcher, William Gillis, found hybrid plants growing in a 20 mile stretch of the gorge between Lyle, WA and Maryhill, WA. West of this area only poison oak grows. East of this area only poison ivy grows.

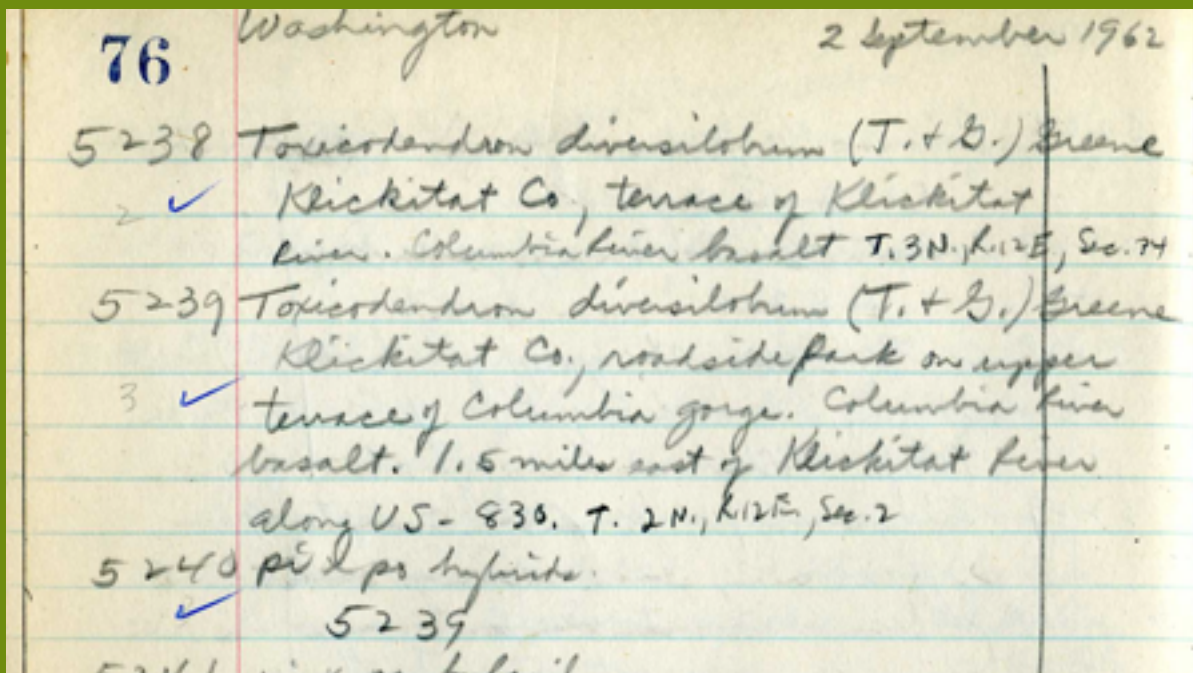


This summer Zanfelf's Customer Service Manager, Dan Boelman RN, BSN, and Poison Ivy Horticulturist, Umar Mycka, set out to find, study, and collect samples of these plants.

Our modern day explorers headed east from Portland, OR, crossed the Columbia River, and continued east on the Lewis & Clark Highway. Stopping at the Chamberlain Lake Rest Area (near Memaloose Island), poison oak was found growing in the woods around the rest area.



Using Dr. Gillis's field notes the explorers continued east into the "overlap zone" and found one of the sites where the poison ivy/poison oak hybrids were documented by Dr. Gillis.



As our explorers hiked up the steep side of the gorge at this site, there were the hybrid plants. Can you identify which features of these plants are from poison ivy and which are from poison oak?





Herbarium samples were collected and submitted to the Michigan State University Herbarium. This is the same facility which holds Dr. Gillis's samples from 1962. In the next Zanfel Zone where we will show a side by side comparison of Gillis's samples, and the samples we collected this summer.

Before our explorers left the study site, they made sure to wash exposed skin with a product that was not available to Lewis & Clark's expedition - Zanfel Poison Ivy, Oak, and Sumac Wash.

Ref: Gillis, W. T. (1971) The Systematics and Ecology of Poison-Ivy and Poison-Oaks (Toxicodendron, Anacardiaceae). Rhodora.



Back To School . . . With Poison Ivy

School is back in session and there is still plenty of poison ivy season left. At Zanfel we receive numerous calls during the year from concerned parents of children who are experiencing poison ivy contact dermatitis. Key points to be shared with parents include:

- Teach children how to identify and avoid poison ivy.
- Wash clothing, footwear, and any toys that might be

contaminated with the poison ivy plants' oily toxin.

- Poison ivy is NOT contagious, and does NOT spread by scratching.
- Encourage children to not scratch, as scratching can introduce bacteria into the rash, causing a bacterial skin infection.

According to pediatrician Vincent Iannelli, M.D., “A severe rash from poison ivy may keep a child out of school for a day or two, but it won't be because the rash is contagious. Instead, a severe poison ivy rash, especially one that involves the face, might cause enough swelling, redness, or blisters, that a child might simply not want to be seen in school until it gets better.”

Ref: Iannelli, V. (2014, May 6). Is Poison Ivy Contagious, Poison Ivy Questions and Answers. Retrieved September 5, 2014, from <http://pediatrics.about.com/od/poisonivy/a/is-poison-ivy-contagious.htm>

Back To School . . . With Zanafel

The severe itching of a poison ivy rash can bring learning to a grinding halt. Likewise body image issues caused by the rash (especially if on the face) can make a child want to stay home from school.

Zanafel Poison Ivy Wash can help reduce the impact of both of these issues. All it takes is a 3 minute washing with Zanafel (done at home before school, or in the School Nurse's office), to stop the itching, and start the healing process. Zanafel Poison Ivy Wash is a SOAP, which is safe for children, has no contraindications, and no side effects.

Zanafel has free educational resources on poison ivy, oak, and sumac available for School Nurses, Teachers, Scout Leaders, and Parents. Help your kids stay poison ivy free by ordering these materials. To order, call 1-800-401-4002, menu option one, or email dboelman@zanafel.com

Coming Soon - Poison Ivy's Colorful Autumn Leaves

Autumn is almost here. Poison ivy leaves are usually some of the first leaves to change colors at the beginning of autumn. They typically turn from green to yellow, and then to a brilliant red. When you go hiking or are near woods this time of year,

poison ivy and a few other plants may be the only ones with yellow or red leaves, while the rest are still green. Don't be fooled by these pretty yellow or red leaves – they still contain the poison ivy plant's toxin, urushiol. Below are pictures of poison ivy leaves in the fall.



Michelle's Big Pumpkins

This year Zanafel's Trade Show Coordinator, Michelle Bastain, and her family are growing two really huge pumpkins! Last year their pumpkin weighed 669 Pounds, and won 10th Place at the Pumpkinfest weigh-off in Anamosa, IA. Stay tuned for the next issue of the Zanafel Zone to learn how much these two pumpkins weighed!



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