

## *Toxicodendron radicans*

### **Common name:**

Poison ivy,

### **Palatability:**

Seldom eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Not known to be toxic.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Toxic to humans, farm animals are immune.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Urushiol, and other toxins.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Severe dermatitis, in humans.
- . Swelling around the eyes of animals, after nosing in the plant.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Be aware of potential problems.

*Treatment;*

See Doctor, or Vet.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Mechanical removal, or herbicides.
- . Do not burn the residue, smoke carries the toxic oil.
- . Declared “Noxious” in some states.

### **Comments:**

- . Garden plant.
- . Native of North America.
- . Individual human reaction varies from nil, to a severe rash, and blistering.
- . A deciduous, perennial, climber or sub-shrub, growing to about three metres high.
- . Leaves comprise three oval leaflets, pointed at the end, and either straight, scalloped or ruffled edges.

Plants may first appear as ground cover, vines or bushes.

. Leaves are green, with three leaflets and wavy margins; some species are reddish at first in spring, and by autumn produce a magnificent display of autumn colour.

. Flowers are small and greenish white, in clusters.

. Berries are small and white, hard, hairless and bristly, in clusters, produced in summer, lasting until winter.

. All parts can be toxic, berries, leaves and sap.

. Some vines may look hairy due to aerial roots.

. In humans, eating the leaves may cause a severe gastric upset, which may prove fatal,



Picture: *Toxicodendron radicans* Wikipedia

### **Further Reading:**

- . Covacavich. Davie and Pearn. Toxic Plants and Animals. A Guide for Australia. 1987.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Plants of Australia. 2001.
- . Roth. Weeds, Friend or Foe. 2001.
- . Shepherd. Pretty but Poisonous. 2004.