



Your Information Resource for Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac

Volume 5, Issue 1

Welcome to the Zanafel Zone! We hope you are having a wonderful summer! As always, Zanafel is here to provide you with important information on plant identification, prevention, and treatment to help get you safely through this season.

Top 4 Frequently Asked Questions

Each year hundreds of consumers and healthcare providers call the Zanafel customer service help line, 1-800-401-4002, with questions about Zanafel and about poison ivy, oak, and sumac. Here are a few of the most frequently asked questions & answers:

Q. I've had my poison ivy rash for 6 days. I'm still itching and miserable! Is it "too late" to start using Zanafel?

A. No. It is never "too late" in the course of the allergic skin reaction to use Zanafel. Zanafel will work at any point in the reaction to remove the plants' oil from the layers of your skin, which will stop the itching and put your body in a position to heal the rash.

Q. My poison ivy rash has fluid filled blisters, drainage, and open raw skin. Is it OK to use Zanafel on these areas of rash?

A. Yes. Zanafel can be used on any poison ivy, oak, or sumac rash, even with oozing, blisters, etc. Zanafel is a soap-based product that will clean the area as it removes the plants' toxin, stops the itching, and puts the body in a position to heal.

Q. Why is my poison ivy rash "spreading"?

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CONTACT US

Zanafel Laboratories, Inc.
1370 NW 114th Street,
Suite 204
Clive, IA 50325
800.401.4002
www.zanafel.com

Dan Boelman RN, BSN

A. Two reasons:

1) The eruption rate of new areas of rash depends upon skin thickness and the amount of the plants' oily toxin (called urushiol) that was absorbed. The areas of skin that absorbed a greater amount of the plants' oily toxin will break out first, followed by the areas of lesser exposure. Likewise the rash will usually start earlier on areas of thin skin, and later on areas of thick skin. The rash didn't "spread", it just takes longer to appear on some areas versus others.

2) If you are breaking out with a lot of new areas of rash after the 4th day, and you are not re-contaminating yourself, the reaction is likely systemic. Systemic reactions to poison ivy typically result from direct contact with cut stems, vines, or roots. When more concentrated urushiol penetrates the skin deeper, it enters the lymphatic or blood system. In other words, the toxin "spreads" internally. New areas of rash break out over a widespread area of the body for 2 - 3 weeks, rather than the usual 3 days. If you experience these symptoms, see your healthcare provider immediately. Zanfel can be used in conjunction with the steroid therapy that you will likely be prescribed.

Q. I have this yellow liquid draining out of my rash. Does that liquid contain the poison ivy plants' toxin?

A. No. The poison ivy toxin bonds with the outside of our skin cells, and is not present in any fluid that oozes out of the rash, nor is it present in the fluid inside of any blisters that form as part of the rash. This fluid will not spread the rash.

Zanfel Sponsors the 3rd Annual Philadelphia Poison Ivy Conference

Zanfel Laboratories was proud to sponsor and attend the 2015 Philadelphia Poison Ivy Conference. The event took place April 7 - 9 at the Philadelphia Horticultural Center. Attendees learned about identification of poison ivy, poison ivy plant removal techniques, new poison ivy plant terminology, new

poison ivy plant research, and participated in the study and removal of two mature poison ivy plants from the Philadelphia Horticultural Center grounds. Zanafel wishes to thank Umar Mycka, Poison Ivy Horticulturalist, for producing a successful, one of a kind event where we discovered valuable information about the nature of poison ivy.



<http://www.idontwantpoisonivy.com/conference>

Poison Ivy Plant Removal Services

One of the most common places to get exposed to poison ivy or poison oak is in your own yard. What options are available for dealing with these plants? Leaving them alone won't make the problem go away. Hitting poison ivy plants that are growing on the ground with a mower or weed-eater can spray the plants' oily toxin on your skin.

If you own a residence or business that is covered in poison ivy, or if you have some very large poison ivy vines that are hard to completely remove, you may want to contact a contractor who specializes in poison ivy plant removal.

Here is a link to a great list of poison ivy removal contractors:

<http://www.poison-ivy.org/service-providers>

We talked to Umar Mycka, owner of Poison Ivy Horticulturist, a poison ivy removal company serving Philadelphia, PA and the surrounding area. Here are his tips on what to keep in mind when contacting a Poison Ivy Removal Contractor:

- Be prepared to share with the contractor whether you prefer the poison ivy to be removed 100% by hand (without the use of chemicals), or if you are fine with the use of chemical herbicides. Some contractors pull the poison ivy by hand, some use herbicides, and some can do both.
- Do Not spray the poison ivy plants before the contractor arrives for the job. Killing the plant with herbicides will make the plant more difficult to remove, resulting in a longer job.
- Ask for two estimates, one for the total job, and one with a per hour rate.
- Beware of landscaping companies that offer to "kill" the poison ivy by burying them with soil. This almost never works, as the poison ivy plants will eventually grow up through the soil.
- Be prepared to share with the contractor which of the poison ivy plants are your highest priority for removal. You may want to have them start by removing the most problematic plants near your home. If you see the contractor does a good job, have them come back to remove the lower priority plants on another day.
- Expect that poison ivy removal services will cost more than general landscaping services, but less than tree trimming/tree removal services.
Also keep in mind the value of having the quality of life for you and your family members improved by reducing or eliminating the chance of poison ivy exposures in your own yard.

For more information contact Umar Mycka by email at info@idontwantpoisonivy.com

Boy Scout Overcomes The Challenges Of Poison Ivy

Poison ivy removal is never an easy job, but the knowledge and right tools can make it less dangerous.

Boy Scout Kenneth Howell was looking for an Eagle

Scout project. When his original project fell through, Kenneth remembered seeing the Deacon of a church near his home, Community Baptist Church, struggle with a poison ivy covered hedgerow on the church property. When Kenneth spoke with the Deacon, he remarked that caring for the hedges was getting to be very difficult. Every time he trimmed the hedges he got poison ivy on his arms.



After receiving approval for the church project, Kenneth got to work researching poison ivy removal. He found a video posted by Umar Myka, Poison Ivy Horticulturist, about removing poison ivy plants from a hedge. Kenneth learned that Umar actually lived near his Philadelphia neighborhood. Kenneth and Umar met at the church property and identified where the poison ivy plants root systems were located. Umar advised Kenneth of what tools would be needed, and donated both Tyvek jumpsuits and disposable sleeves for the job. Zanafel Laboratories donated Zanafel Poison Ivy Wash for Kenneth and the volunteers who worked with him.

Kenneth shared with us "As a Boy Scout over the past years, I've done a lot of camping. We were always told about the dangers of poison ivy. This is different because it's an urban setting and most people don't think about poison ivy in the city. This is an ideal situation for me because now I get to practice what I have learned from being a Scout and putting it into practical use."



The project involved digging out the roots of the poison ivy and the hedges that were to be removed. They pruned and thinned out the remaining section of the hedgerow that the church wanted to save. Finally shrubs and perennial flowers were planted in the area that was cleared.



Congratulations Kenneth on the completion of your Eagle Scout project! You demonstrated the Scout Motto "Be Prepared" by having the knowledge and tools that were needed to complete your project. Since proper precautions were taken, no one experienced a poison ivy rash during or after the project.

Boy Scout - Kenneth Howell
Scout Master - Mr. J. R. Brockman
Eagle Scout Advisor - Mr. Kevin Jones
Boy Scout Troop 133, sponsored by the African Episcopal Church of St Thomas, Philadelphia, PA
Cradle of Liberty Council, BSA

Peak Poison Ivy, Oak & Sumac Exposure Season Is Here

The time between Memorial Day and Labor Day is the peak time of the year for exposures to poison ivy, oak, and sumac. Camping, hiking, summer vacations, yard

work, and other outdoor activities are all opportunities to tangle with poison ivy. Please contact us if you have questions about Zanafel Poison Ivy, Oak & Sumac Wash, or about poison ivy in general. If you break out with a poison ivy rash, Zanafel can be found in the first aid section of your local pharmacy.

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