

# the ZANFEL ZONE

Your Information Resource for Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac

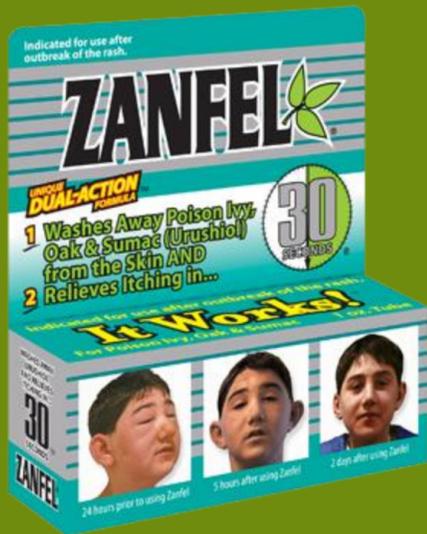
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Welcome to the Zanfel Zone! Spring is here and poison ivy, oak and sumac have reappeared in our yards, parks, and gardens. We would like to help you be prepared for poison ivy, oak, and sumac season.

## Poison Ivy Education Resources Available

Zanfel Laboratories has a number of Free educational resources available that cover poison ivy, oak, and sumac plant identification, rash prevention/decontamination, and rash treatment. These can be viewed by clicking on the following link: <http://www.zanfel.com/help/educational.html> These materials can be ordered by calling 1-800-401-4002, or by emailing [dboelman@zanfel.com](mailto:dboelman@zanfel.com)

If you are a Healthcare Professional, member of the US Military, Firefighter, or Scout Leader, and did not respond to the email or reply card that Zanfel mailed last month, then we would encourage you to contact us for a free Zanfel Informational Kit by calling 1-800-401-4002, or by emailing [dboelman@zanfel.com](mailto:dboelman@zanfel.com)



## 2016 Poison Ivy Citizen Scientist Program

We Need Your Help! Now that you have the tools to identify poison ivy, please consider becoming a poison ivy citizen scientist. All you need is your smart phone.

At Virginia Tech University, Dr. John Jelesko has set up a Poison Ivy Citizen Scientist network in order to collect data on poison ivy from across the US. You would be surprised how little is known about poison ivy ecology and the poison ivy plant's production of its toxin, urushiol. Dr. Jelesko and his team at Virginia Tech are doing some amazing, new research!

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## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

[Click here](#) to order informational materials - for FREE!

## CONTACT US

Zanfel Laboratories, Inc.  
1370 NW 114th Street, Suite 204  
Clive, IA 50325  
800.401.4002  
[www.zanfel.com](http://www.zanfel.com)

Dan Boelman RN, BSN  
Customer Service Manager  
[dboelman@zanfel.com](mailto:dboelman@zanfel.com)



Here's where you come in. The team of researchers at Virginia Tech needs pictures of poison ivy from your area. Please use your smartphone to snap a picture of poison ivy growing in your area and send it to Dr. Jelesko and his team using this website: <http://www.poisonivyresearch.ppws.vt.edu/>

Requested pictures and observations are:

- [General Poison Ivy Observations](#)
- [Poison Ivy Leaf Buds](#)
- [Poison Ivy Flowers](#)

None of the requested data collection requires experience as a scientist. Likewise participation in this project does not require touching a poison ivy plant. In fact, you are discouraged from touching any poison ivy plant as part of this project.

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## Zanfel's Top 3 Frequently Asked Questions

Each year hundreds of consumers and healthcare providers call the Zanfel customer service help line, 1-800-401-4002, with questions about Zanfel 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 Zanfel?

A. No. It is never "too late" in the course of the allergic skin reaction to use Zanfel. Zanfel 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. Why is my poison ivy rash "spreading"?

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.

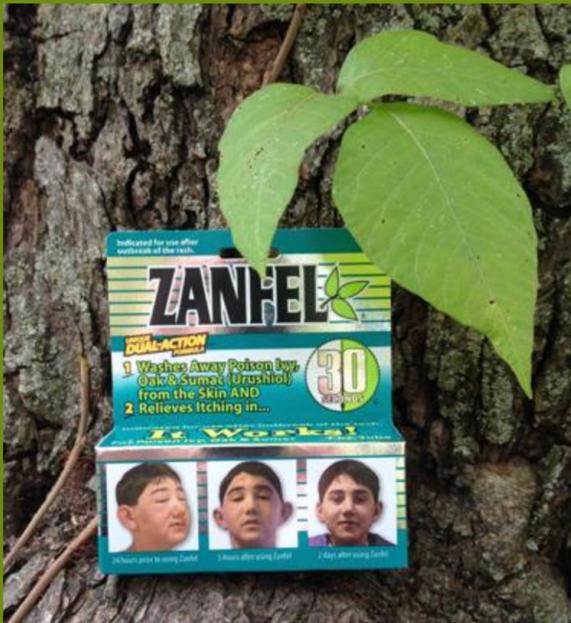
Does that liquid contain the poison ivy plants' toxin?

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.

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## Peak Poison Ivy, Oak & Sumac Exposure Season Is Almost 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 Zanfel Poison Ivy, Oak & Sumac Wash, or about poison ivy in general. If you break out with a poison ivy rash, Zanfel can be found in the first aid section of your local pharmacy.



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## Follow ZANFEL on Twitter



Please follow us on Twitter [@ZanfelPoisonIvy](https://twitter.com/ZanfelPoisonIvy)

We'll Tweet helpful information on poison ivy, oak, and sumac throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who has followed us!

Zanfel Laboratories, Inc. - 1370 NW 114th Street, Suite 204 Clive, IA 50325  
800.401.4002  
[www.zanfel.com](http://www.zanfel.com)

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