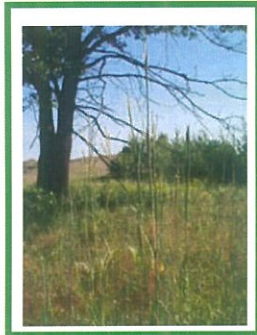


Is it really necessary to burn despite the risk of poison ivy?

To quote from a Tallgrass prairie assessment on the Northumberland County Forest, prepared by Todd Farrell, of Nature Conservancy of Canada:

“The Northumberland County Forest property is a vast area of natural habitat. It contains numerous high quality provincially

and globally significant areas of Tallgrass prairie, savannah and woodland. These areas represent some of the best quality examples of this habitat in On-



Black oak and big blue-stem at Alderville

tario. Restoration is a necessity and it will enhance and maintain these communities.”

One of the most effective methods of restoration is the prescribed burn.



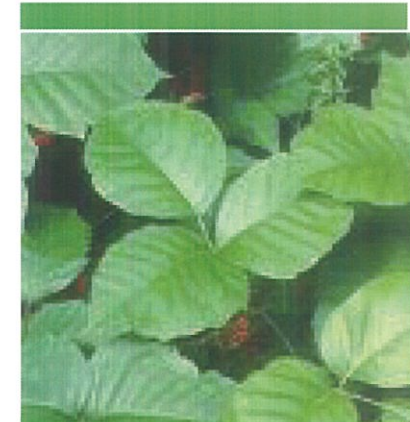
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Prescribed Burns & Poison Ivy



NORTHUMBERLAND

Poison Ivy



It is not recommended to burn poison ivy in gardens, this is primarily a safety issue, due to the fact that the individual burning the plant might not be adequately protected from the smoke. The smoke contains Urushoil, which can cause an irritant reaction and if inhaled can cause serious respiratory problems.

In terms of poison ivy and a prescribed burn, there is never a zero percent risk but with the following precautions there should be very little, if any, risk to local residents as there is approximately a 100 acre tract of land between proposed burn site and the closest residence.

Precautions

- The burn should only be conducted by a recognized team of experts in this field.

The Burn will be conducted by hired specialists, *Lands and Forests*, as well as the MNR Fire Department and Alnwick Haldimand Fire Department.

- The burn should only be done with a prevailing West wind to carry any smoke away from neighbouring residents.

The burn will only be done if precise weather conditions are satisfied, including wind speed and direction.

- The burn should be done in early spring, before the plants are in full foliage to minimize the amount of Urushoil released from the plants.

The burn is scheduled for late April 2007, with consideration for reptiles and amphibians as well, who are not yet active at that time.

- All residents should be notified

of the burn prior to the start. Residents can then choose to stay indoors and close windows or leave the burn area until it is completed.

Residents will be notified by County staff 48 hours prior to the start of the burn.

- Persons conducting the burn should wear protective covering including respiratory equipment.

Personnel conducting the burn are trained professionals, fire fighters and prescribed burn experts. They will be bringing all their own equipment to ensure they are well dressed for the occasion.

Source: Letter from Dr. Noseworthy, HKPR Health Unit, March 6th 2006

