

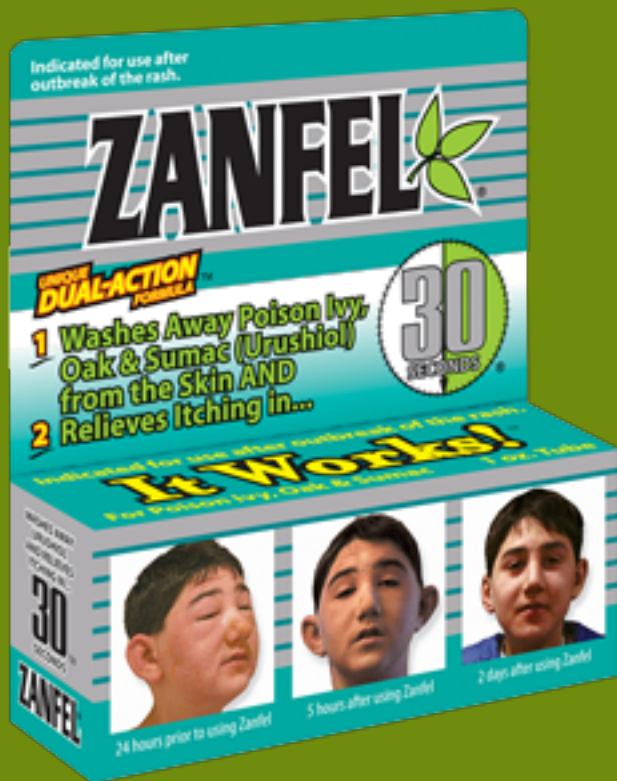
# the ZANFEL ZONE

Your Information Resource for Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac

Volume 4, Issue 3

Happy Thanksgiving and welcome back to the Zanafel Zone! We hope you are having a great autumn season, and have been able to steer clear of poison ivy, oak, and sumac!

If you, or a family member experience a poison ivy, oak, or sumac rash, Zanafel can be found in the first aid section of your local pharmacy.



## The Partners 5: Poison Ivy Education That Is NOT Boring

Poison ivy education is not always the most exciting of topics. Many articles about poison ivy wind up being a humdrum list of facts. How do you get kids (and adults) to become interested in learning about this important topic?

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- Follow Zanafel on Twitter

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Introducing **The Partners 5!** The Partners 5 is an adventure comic where horticulture meets high adventure! The comic is a good vs. evil story where the villainous poison ivy plant “Heartroot” plots to take over the world . . . garden by garden, then city by city. The Partners 5 are superhero landscapers who specialize in eliminating the threat of poison ivy from your yard.

The Partners 5 is an ongoing resource you can use to educate (and entertain) children and adults on the dangers of, and the solutions to everyday encounters with poison ivy.

There will be a new issue of the comic posted every Monday.

<http://thepartners5.com/>

Many Thursdays there will be an educational blog posting about poison ivy.

<http://thepartners5.com/blog/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/thepartners5>

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## **Epic Discovery: A Plant That Is Both Poison Ivy AND Poison Oak – Part Two**

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.



In the last issue of the Zanafel Zone we shared about how last summer Zanafel's Customer Service Manager, Dan Boelman RN, BSN, and Poison Ivy Horticulturist, Umar Mycka, found, studied, and collected samples of these plants.

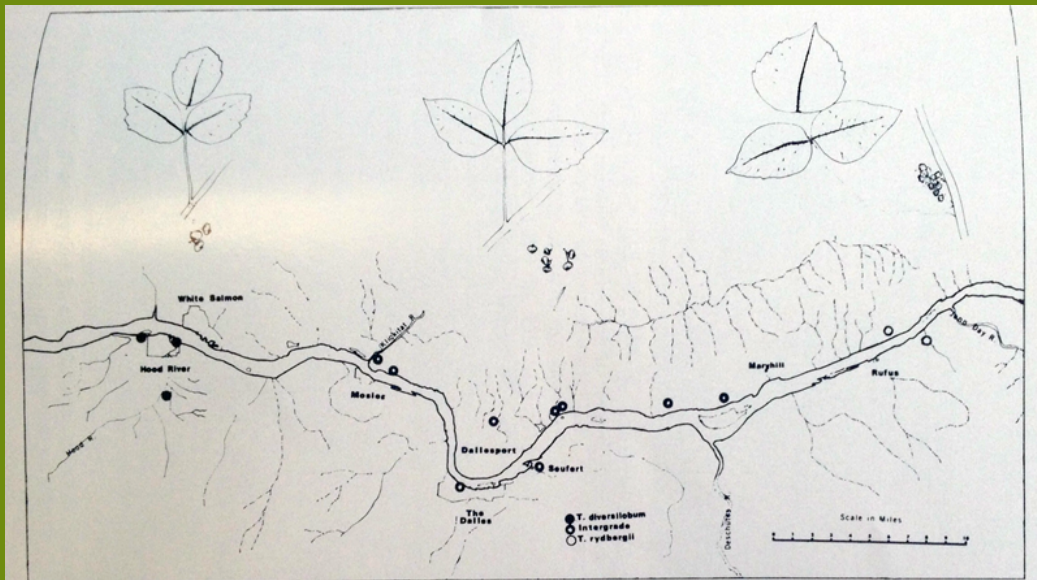


Fig. 53. Distribution of *Toxicodendron diversilobum* and *T. rydbergii* in the Columbia River gorge of Oregon and Washington and location of intergrades between them. (See text, page 423).

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. Below are images of Gillis's herbarium samples, and the samples we collected this summer.



What makes these plants hybrids? What we observed was the stems of the male plants were similar to nearby poison oak plants, but the leaflets of these plants lacked the distinctive “oak-like” appearance. Instead, the leaflets looked more like poison ivy leaflets. For the female plants we found, the stems and leaflets looked very much like classic poison ivy (*T. rydbergii*). However, unlike the tightly packed cluster of berries which is seen with *T. rydbergii*, the berries of these plants are arranged in a way which reminded us of poison oak (*T. diversilobum*) berries.

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

We would like to thank the Michigan State University Herbarium for providing invaluable support and for accepting our *Toxicodendron* samples.

<http://herbarium.msu.edu/>

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**Collecting Firewood For The**

# Winter

While collecting firewood for the winter, be sure to inspect the wood for the presence of poison ivy vines. Poison ivy vines can get mixed up in a woodpile, or even cling to an individual piece of wood.



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## Keep Poison Ivy, Oak & Sumac Out Of Fires

If you dispose of dead leaves, yard waste, and other plant material this fall by burning it, be very careful to keep poison ivy, oak, and sumac leaves and twigs out of the fire. The plants' toxin, urushiol, is stable at high temperatures, and the plant particles dispersed in the smoke are both allergenic and irritant.

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## Michelle and Dan's Big Pumpkins

This year Zanafel's Trade Show Coordinator, Michelle Bastian, and her family grew two really huge pumpkins! Last year their pumpkin weighed 669 Pounds, and won 10th Place at the Pumpkinfest weigh-off in Anamosa, IA. This year the pumpkin Michelle and her family entered in Anamosa Pumpkinfest weighed 772 pounds, a new "personal best"! Check out the pictures below of Michelle's Ninja Turtle pumpkin and Cinderella Carriage pumpkin – these giant jack-o-lanterns were a huge hit during Halloween with both

children and adults.



Zanfel's Customer Service Manager, Dan Boelman, also grew a big pumpkin. His tipped the scales at 604 pounds.



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