

Health Views

Poison Ivy Mystery

Q I keep getting Poison Ivy on my arms, and yet I am not going outside. How can I avoid the stuff better?

A Often it is the person who does the laundry or cares for the family dog, who has this kind of recurrent problem with what we call “weed dermatitis.” There are several weeds that grow around fences and trees that contain a noxious oily resin. Certain people become highly allergic and reactive to weed particles containing these highly allergenic resins. When son or dad does the yard work, and then mom lifts the work clothes into the washing machine, mom may get recurrent weed dermatitis without ever going into the yard. The family dog also can bring these weed particles into the house and cause these problems.

Our best advice is to have the yard worker peel off clothes and immediately place them into the washing machine. Laundry detergent destroys the resins. A soapy sponge ran over the dog will also eradicate the problem weed particles. Finally, spray all weeds at the trees and fences and never should the sensitive person pull them or remove them.

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