

## CLOVER SAFE #26



*Western Poison Oak*  
Photograph Courtesy California Poison  
Control System

## TOXIC PLANTS

Toxic plants can cause mild to severe dermatitis or other reactions when plant sap, fluids, or thorns come into contact with exposed skin or other tissues.

California toxic plants include weeping fig, poison oak, chrysanthemum, geranium, ivy, century plant, crown of thorns, primrose, and firethorn.

Symptoms of dermatitis typically develop within 24 to 48 hours after exposure and include redness, blistering, swelling, and aggravated itching of skin exposed to toxic plants.

Reactions to toxic plant secretions or thorns depend on the individual's sensitivity, degree of exposure, and where on the body the toxic exposure occurs. For example, toxic plant exposures to sensitive eye tissue usually cause relatively more severe reactions than exposures to other body areas. For additional information about toxic plants, go to the Clover Safe note at: <http://ucanr.org/cloversafe>.

Clover Safe Notes are prepared by the UC ANR Office of Environmental Health & Safety, in support of the Statewide 4-H Youth Development Program.

