

# Poisonous Plants in Morgan County

By David Mow and Lisa MacPhee, Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District



WILD PARSNIP



POISON IVY



POISON HEMLOCK

Plants can be poisonous in different ways. Some are more toxic than others. While some may cause a reaction just from coming in contact with it, others may have to be ingested or absorbed into your body to be dangerous. It is important to be able to identify these dangerous plants to protect yourself and loved ones from harm while outdoors.

Poison Ivy is the most well-known of the poisonous plants that can cause an allergic reaction or illness. There is no need to worry about poison oak or poison sumac in Morgan County, because they do not grow in this part of central Indiana.

Poison Ivy grows in different forms. It can grow along the ground; it can grow into a shrub like form, or it can grow into a vine and climb trees and shrubs. Most people have heard the saying "leaves of three, leave it be." You should be aware a lot of other plants have leaves of three. The "leaves of three" on a poison ivy plant can have a

smooth edge or can have teeth along edge. The tip of the leaves and any teeth would be pointed.

Wild Parsnip is an invasive species that can make you vulnerable to severe sunburn and even blisters where your skin has come into contact with the sap of the plant. The burns can cause a discoloration of the skin and increased sensitivity to sunlight in that area of the skin. This effect can last for years. This plant is a member of the carrot family that has yellow flowers, and you want to be able to identify so you can avoid it.

Another poisonous plant that is common in Morgan County is Poison Hemlock. It is also a member of the carrot family and is deadly if ingested or absorbed through the skin. You can easily end up in the hospital if you get the sap on you while doing yardwork. It is deadly to livestock if they eat it. Though they usually will avoid it, they may consume some if in a dry lot or very hungry. It looks like Queen Ann's Lace but is

much taller and blooms earlier.

The Tree of Heaven is a deadly species of tree found in Morgan County. The sap of this tree has been known to cause a heart attack if absorbed through the skin. This can happen if you are cutting one of them down and you get saw dust on your skin.

Some species of plants may only be partially poisonous. Some species of Nightshades and Mayapples have edible fruit or flesh, but the rest of the plant may be deadly and some species of plants such as Poke, may have edible leaves, but the berries and stalks may be poisonous. It is very important to learn to identify poisonous plants if you spend time outdoors.

For more information on poisonous plants, please visit [www.MorganCountySWCD.org](http://www.MorganCountySWCD.org) and click on the invasive species page or call 765-349-2060



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