

Poison sumac

Toxicodendron vernix

Species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable in Quebec

3 to 6 m



CHARACTERISTICS

- Large shrub of the poison ivy family.
- Leaves composed of 7 to 13 oval leaflets.
- Pale grey bark, becoming red on twigs and producing a sticky, highly poisonous latex.
- Caution! Do not touch this plant, which can cause severe dermatitis!



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OBSERVATION PERIODS

Identification: summer

Flowers: June and July

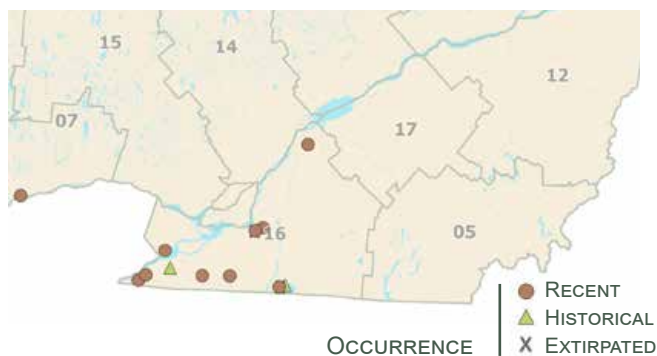


HABITAT

Wetlands:

- wooded swamps or peatlands with red maple
- sometimes in larch or alder stands

DISTRIBUTION IN QUEBEC



MAIN THREATS

- Destruction and drainage of wetlands in southern Quebec.
- Conversion of peaty woodlands into fields for market gardening.

MANAGE YOUR FOREST WHILE PROTECTING AT-RISK FLORA

Your woodlot contributes to the protection of forest species in precarious situations. It is often preferable to avoid forest management interventions in their habitats. If such activities must be carried out, the protection of these species requires the following precautions:

STEP 1: IDENTIFY AND LOCATE THE SPECIES

Onsite, during the appropriate identification period, locate all the plants of the species (or have this done by a competent person). Then outline the zones where they are found (occupied zones) as well as the surrounding buffer zone.



STEP 2: PROTECT THE PLANTS

This species requires particular attention. It is listed as a species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable because the available information suggests that its survival is compromised.



STEP 3: AVOID MAJOR DISTURBANCES

in the occupied and buffer zones

- Ø Landing (wood piling) areas
- Ø Forest road construction
- Ø Forest drainage
- Ø Clearcuts
- Ø Scarification of the forest floor



STEP 4 : ADAPT PRACTICES BASED ON SPECIES SENSITIVITY

Sensitivity to opening of the forest canopy

Moderate

Avoid cutting or damaging poison sumac plants. **In the occupied and buffer zones**, opening of the forest canopy is allowed. Use partial cuts or low-intensity thinning to maintain shade and its beneficial effect on soil moisture.



Sensitivity to drainage pattern changes

High

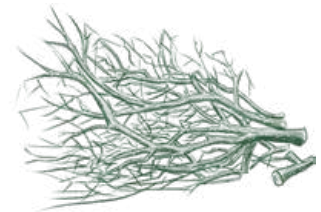
In the occupied zone, carry out forestry operations in winter, on frozen ground, and keep machinery out of this zone, given the species' sensitivity to drainage modification and physical damage.

In the buffer zone, avoid altering drainage and minimize soil compaction: use an adapted skidder or forwarder and plan logging trails on soils with adequate load-bearing capacity.

Sensitivity to trampling and mechanical damage

High

In the occupied zone, avoid leaving logging residues (branches, etc.).



If the plant cannot be identified or located, apply the protection measures to the entire forest stand.

Advise forest workers about plant locations as well as protection measures to apply.

This fact sheet was developed through the integration of scientific elements and discussions between experts from the MRNF and the MELCCFP. The recommendations may evolve as new knowledge becomes available. For references, please visit afm.qc.ca/fiches-paf-bonifies.