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N U I S A N C E P L A N T S A N D A N I M A L S AUG 8 1969

All persons who are out-of-doors during the warmer parts of the year should recognize and avoid toxic or poisonous plants and animals. Those nuisance plants and animals which occur most frequently in Virginia are presented below.

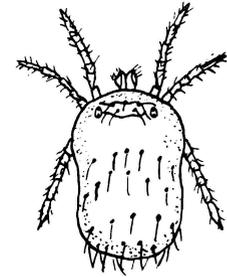
P O I S O N I V Y



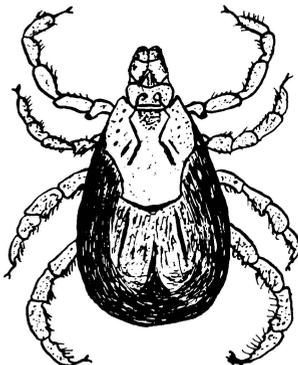
The allergic reaction to poison ivy varies widely among individuals. Some persons are extremely allergic to this plant while others can handle the plant with little or no reaction. It is wise, in either case, to avoid contact with this three-leaflet vine for a severe reaction can require hospitalization. The poison ivy plant is typically three-leaved, produces white berries, and occurs most abundantly in rich moist soil, in waste area, and along fence-rows. If you come in contact with this toxic plant, wash the exposed skin with strong soap and water as soon as possible after exposure.

C H I G G E R S

The larva of several mites, called chiggers or red bugs, are parasitic on man. The bites of these small (1/150-inch) insects cause intense itching and small reddish welts. Chiggers usually occur on dense vegetation and on the underside of rocks. These parasites are so small that itching may be the only way of knowing that you have been in a chigger-infested area. Several types of repellents are available that may be applied to the clothing and skin which will keep these insects, and others described below, from attacking man. If chiggers do attach themselves, the itching can be reduced by bathing and by applying an antiseptic and local anesthetic to the welts.



T I C K S

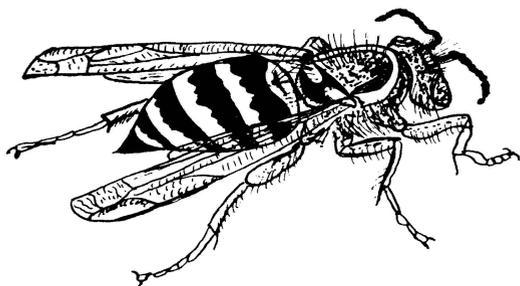


Ticks feed on the blood of animals and may bite humans. Their bites are painful and some ticks carry diseases. They go through four stages of development - egg, larva, nymph, and adult. The larva, nymph, and adult tick all will attach themselves to the host animal, including humans, from whom they secure food in the form of blood. Ticks feed by inserting their mouth parts into the host. On humans they normally set down to feed at the tops of socks, around the belt line, and at other places where clothing fits tightly. Therefore, after being afield, a careful search should be made of these parts of the body. Remove any unattached ticks using tweezers. If the tick has inserted its mouthparts, apply alcohol, lighter fluid or similar material to cause the tick to withdraw its mouthparts before removing. Do not pull the body

from the head, leaving the mouthparts attached. If this is done, the area of the inserted mouthparts may become infected.

Ticks are most abundant in areas supporting a high mammal population such as cattle, deer, or small mammals. If the area you are visiting is known to have a high tick population, the use of insect repellent sprayed on the clothing before going afield is recommended.

W A S P S A N D B E E S



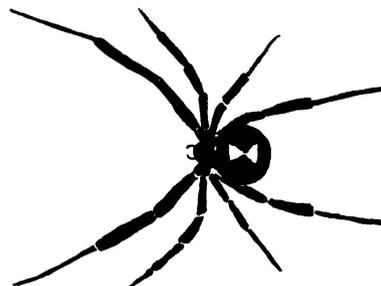
Wasps, hornets, yellowjackets, and bees are too well known to require description. The nest indicates the type of wasp making it but the nests of bees are less conspicuous. The sting of both bees and wasps are painful and, with some individuals, may be quite dangerous. Of course the nests or hives of both wasps and bees should be avoided.

If stung by any of these insects, the application of bicarbonate of soda will relieve the pain.

B L A C K W I D O W S P I D E R

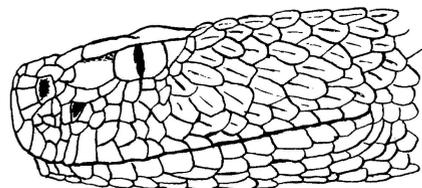
The female black widow is jet black, with a characteristic hourglass-shaped red marking on the underside. The males and young spiders are black with yellowish markings on the upper side of the body.

These spiders frequent garages, sheds, outdoor toilets, rock piles, and similar dark, shady places. The black widow spider is the most poisonous spider found in the United States. The bite, usually indicated by a tiny red spot, is surrounded by a whitish wheal. A sharp pain develops in the region of the bite, usually within a few minutes. If you suspect you have been bitten by a black widow, search the area and determine if the black widow spider is present. If so, and the pain develops at the suspected site of the bite, apply an ice pack and consult a physician immediately.



P O I S O N O U S S N A K E S

Most of the snakes in Virginia are harmless but three poisonous snakes do occur in the Old Dominion - the rattlesnake, the copperhead, and the cotton-mouth moccasin. The cotton-mouth moccasin occurs only in the extreme southeastern part of Virginia but the rattler and the copperhead are more widely distributed.



All of Virginia's poisonous snakes can be identified by: (1) the presence of a pit; (2) elliptical pupils of the eye; and (3) the presence of fangs. Any snake may bite if handled or cornered. Therefore, if a snake should bite you, capture it and make sure it is a poisonous snake before beginning the recommended treatment for a poisonous snake bite. The bite of a non-poisonous snake usually is nothing more than a skin abrasion and should be washed and an antiseptic applied. The bite of a poisonous snake usually shows two fang marks on the skin and the bitten area becomes quite painful. Have a companion apply a tourniquet immediately above the bitten area, make 1/8-inch deep incision over the bitten area, and apply suction to extract the venom.

Snakes, both poisonous and non-poisonous, frequent rock piles, brush piles, and other shady, moist places.

Agricultural Extension Service

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