Potential Hazards at the Harvard Forest

**tick removal**
Remove ticks immediately. They usually need to attach for 24 hours to transmit Lyme disease. Consult a physician if you remove an engorged deer tick.

Using a tick spoon:
- Place the wide part of the notch on the skin near the tick (hold skin taut if necessary)
- Applying slight pressure downward on the skin, slide the remover forward so the small part of the notch is framing the tick
- Continuous sliding motion of the remover detaches the tick.

Using tweezers:
- Grasp the tick close to the skin with tweezers
- Pull gently until the tick lets go

1-800-821-5821
www.mainepublichealth.gov

**tick ID**
Know Them. Prevent Them.

Deer Tick (Black-Legged Tick)

- *nymph*
- *adult male*
- *adult female*

(Actual size)

- *nymph* (3/16"-1/8")
- *adult* (1/8")
- *engorged adult* (up to 1/2")

Dog Tick

- *adult male*
- *adult female*

(examples are not actual size; dog tick nymphs are rarely found on humans or their pets)

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**HOW TO IDENTIFY POISON IVY**

"Leaves of three, let it be."
This old rhyme refers to the grouping of three leaves that are most commonly associated with poison ivy. Though there are many other plants with three predominate leaves, this can be a good starting point for identification.

"Berries white, run in fright" & "Berries white, danger in sight."
The berry-like fruit, a drupe, mature by August to November with a grayish-white color. Fruits are a favorite winter food of some birds and other animals. Seeds are spread mainly by animals and remain viable after passing through the digestive tract.

"If butterflies land there, don’t put your hand there."
Some butterflies land on poison ivy, since they are not affected, which provides them protection as their predators avoid eating the plant.

"Hairy vine, no friend of mine." & "Raggy rope, don’t be a dope!"
Poison ivy vines on trees have a furry "raggy" appearance. These rhymes warn tree climbers to be wary. Old, mature vines on tree trunks can be quite large and long, with the recognizable leaves obscured among the higher foliage of the tree.

"Longer middle stem, stay away from them."
This refers to the middle leaflet having a notably longer stem than the two side leaflets and is a key to differentiating it from the similar-looking Rhus aromatica - Fragrant sumac.

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