

What's a Weed?

A weed is a plant growing where you don't want it. Weeds steal sunlight, growing space, and moisture from grass and plants we do want.

Weeds spread by seeds. Pull weeds before they set seeds. Then you'll have fewer weeds in the future!

"Seeds one year, weeds for seven."

Each letter is something plants (including weeds) need to survive.

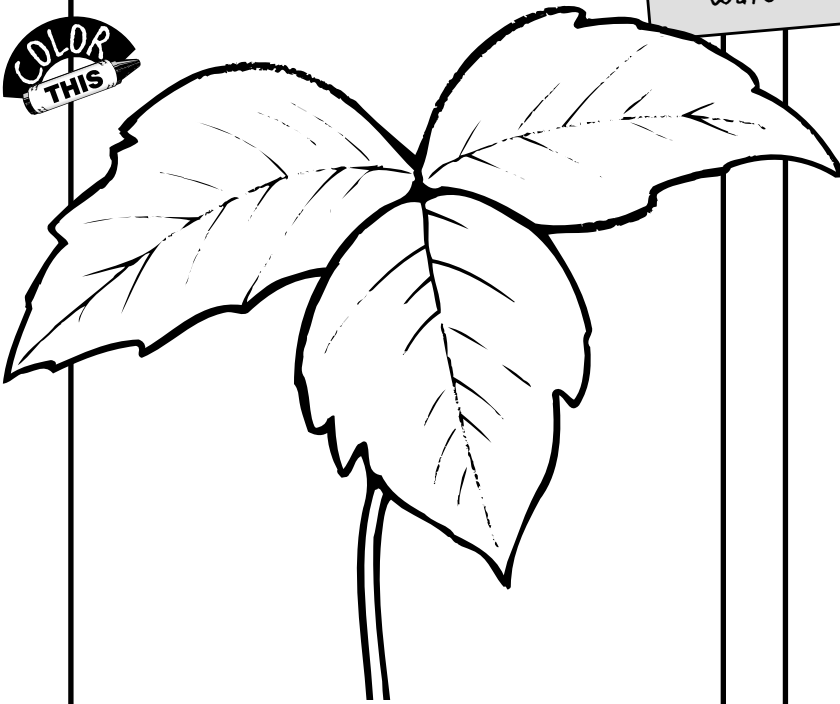
- P place
- L light
- A air
- N nutrients
- T thirst-quenching water



Tips

Take a whack at weeds!

- Pull or hoe weeds out. Be sure to get every tiny bit of root so the weed doesn't grow back.
- The best time to get rid of weeds is when they are small.
- Weeds pull more easily from moist soil.



Poison ivy is a pest when it grows where we hike or play. It gives you itchy rash and weepy blisters. Is poison ivy good for anything?

Some animals and birds eat the leaves and berries! Bees sip nectar from the flowers.

Tip for Grown-ups:
Teach children to know poison ivy when they see it and to stay away! See http://www.fda.gov/fdac/features/796_ivy.html

"Leaves of three, let it be."



Who Needs Weeds?



Milkweed can be a pest when it grows in fields of crops. But what would happen if it disappeared? Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed. Without milkweed, what would happen to monarchs?

If you ate and grew as much as a baby monarch caterpillar does during its first weeks of life, you'd weigh as much as a school bus just 15 to 20 days after you were born! Wow!

