

## PHYTOLACCACEAE – POKEWEEED FAMILY

**Plant:** herbs, shrubs or trees, rarely woody vines

**Stem:**

**Root:**

**Leaves:** simple, entire and alternate or opposite; often large; no stipules or very small

**Flowers:** perfect, rarely unisexual, regular (actinomorphic); 4-8 sepals; no petals; 3-4 to many stamens, often twice the number of sepals; ovary mostly superior, inferior in one genus, 1 to 15+ carpels

**Fruit:** berries, capsules, nutlets or winged seeds

**Other:** mostly tropical family; Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 18+ genera; locally *Phytolacca* (pokeweed)

# PHYTOLACCACEAE – POKEWEED FAMILY

[American] Pokeweed; *Phytolacca americana* L.

# [American] Poke or Pokeweed

*Phytolacca americana* L.

Phytolaccaceae (Pokeweed Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower with no petals, 5 sepals, white to pinkish;  
leaves ovate to lanceolate; tall plant, much branched and  
common; young shoots edible but rest may be  
poisonous; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2004]

