

Staghorn sumac

Rhus typhina L.

Life cycle: Colony-forming shrub to small tree.

Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound with nine to 31 leaflets approaching 24 inches long. Leaflets are lance-shaped to narrowly oblong with a pointed tip, 2 to 5 inches long with coarsely toothed margins. Leaflet veins and leaf petioles are densely hairy. Leaflets are deep green above and dull green below and turn bright red in the fall.

Stems: Shrub to small tree. Young stems and petioles are covered with soft, fuzzy hairs.

Flowers and fruit: Green to yellow flowers form in long, terminal, pyramid-shaped clusters. Red, fuzzy, berrylike fruit form in upright, persistent, cone-shaped clusters.

Reproduction: Seeds and rhizomes.



Staghorn sumac flower cluster.



Young, fuzzy stems and petioles of staghorn sumac.

All photos this page: Steven A. Gower



Staghorn sumac leaf.



Staghorn sumac foliage and fruit.

Similar weeds

Dwarf sumac (*R. copallina* L.). Differs by having smooth leaflet margins, raised red dots on stems and distinctly winged leaf stems.

Smooth sumac (*R. glabra* L.). Differs by having hairless stems and petioles and more open fruit clusters. May hybridize with staghorn sumac.