

Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation

staghorn sumac Anacardiaceae Rhus typhina L. ≥ symbol: RHTY



Leaf: Alternate, pinnately compound, 16 to 24 inches long, with 11 to 31 lanceolate leaflets with serrate margins each 2 to 5 inches long, rachis fuzzy; green above and paler below.

Flower: Species is usually dioecious; small, with yellow-green petals, borne on upright, dense terminal cluster up to 8 inches long, appearing in mid-summer.

Fruit: A round (1/8 inch diameter), red, fuzzy drupe; borne on upright dense clusters; mature in late summer, but persist through winter.

Twig: Stout, brown and very fuzzy (resembling deer antlers in velvet); buds are small, rounded and covered with soft, brown hairs, nearly encircled by leaf scar.

Bark: Remaining fuzzy for several years, turning gray-brown and smooth with numerous lenticels, much later becoming a bit

Form: A shrub or small tree to 25 feet, with a short, often poorly formed trunk and wide spreading very open crown. Branches repeatedly and widely fork.

Looks like: smooth sumac - shining sumac - poison sumac - tree-of-Heaven



Additional Range Information: Rhus typhina is native to North America. Range may be expanded by <u>USDA Plants Database</u> planting. See states reporting staghorn sumac.

External Links: USDAFS Additional Silvics

© Copyright 2012, Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, all rights reserved. Photos and Text by: John Seiler, Edward Jensen, Alex Niemiera, and John Peterson.