

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

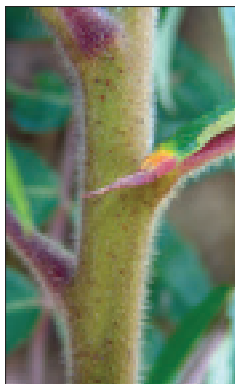
Green to yellow flowers form in long, terminal, pyramid-shaped clusters. Red, fuzzy, berry-like fruit form in upright, persistent, cone-shaped clusters.

Reproduction

Seeds and rhizomes.



Staghorn sumac flower cluster.



Young, fuzzy stems and petioles of staghorn sumac.

Staghorn sumac *continued*



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.