

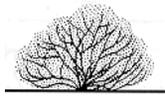
Rhus aromatica - Fragrant Sumac (*Anacardiaceae*)

Rhus aromatica is a sprawling, low shrub good for mass plantings or erosion control. Fragrant Sumac is also known for its glossy, dark green, summer foliage.

FEATURES

Form

- small shrub
- to 5' tall x 10' wide, frequently 2' tall x 5' wide, often planted in groups and spreading together with age
- medium growth rate



Culture

- full sun to partial shade
- adapts to dry, poor conditions
- abundantly available; container
- no significant pests or diseases

Foliage



- trilobed, with each leaflet crenate to dentate
- shiny dark green in summer
- autumn color - mixture of red, burgundy, purple, and green

Flowers

- polygamous or dioecious
- yellowish-green, male catkins form in late summer and persist as 1" long ornamental buds in winter
- male and female flowers bloom in Mar.-Apr.



Fruit

- red (when present)
- Aug. and persistent into early winter; noticeable but not overly attractive

Twigs

- gray; leaf scars rounded
- male immature catkins prominent throughout winter
- stems aromatic when bruised

Trunk

- NA



USAGE

Function

- mass plantings, embankments, foundations

Texture

- medium texture in foliage and when bare
- thick density in foliage and when bare

Assets

- adaptable to stressful conditions
- erosion control low shrub or tall groundcover due to entangled stems and their rooting ability
- shiny foliage that becomes a mixture of colors in autumn

Liabilities

- collects trash; gets out of bounds with age

Habitat

- Zone 3
- Native to Eastern U.S.



SELECTIONS

Alternates

- low, spreading shrubs or tall woody groundcovers

Cultivars – Variants – Related species

- Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-low' - low-growing, spreading form is its primary attribute; also has more glossy foliage and better autumn color; popular as a tall woody groundcover; every third year needs to be pruned to the ground for invigoration; catches blowing trash

RHUS DISEASE PROBLEMS

Several fungi cause cankers leading to dieback.

Fertilize to keep plants healthy and prune out infected parts.

Fusarium wilt infects roots, causing the leaves to droop and wilt. A light infection causes only gradual dwarfing or yellowing and premature red leaf coloration.

Leaf spot caused by *Pezizella oenotherae* causes gray spots with purplish margins that merge, giving the leaves a scorched appearance.

Various genera of powdery mildew forms a white coating on the leaves.

Verticillium wilt causes wilting of individual stems, followed by death of the foliage. Eventually the entire plant dies. Prune out infected branches. Do not

replant in the same spot with sumac or other susceptible plants.

RHUS INSECTS

Aphids suck plant juices and can be controlled with sprays of Sevin, malathion or rotenone.

Acephate may be used on staghorn sumac for aphids. The insects can also be dislodged with a high pressure water spray from the garden hose.

Scales are controlled with dormant oil applied in the spring before plants begin to grow. Sprays of Sevin control crawlers. acephate controls crawlers on staghorn sumac. The preferred method of control involves regular inspection for early detection of the infestation then spraying with dormant oil.