**Rhus typhina** - Staghorn Sumac (*Anacardiaceae*)

**Rhus glabra** - Smooth Sumac (*Anacardiaceae*)

---

*Rhus typhina* grows rapidly, tolerates most exposures and poor soil but is short-lived. Sumacs are among the most adaptable shrubs but may be regarded as weeds. The main ornamental feature is outstanding bright red autumn color. Its common name, Staghorn Sumac, is derived from its fuzzy twigs.

### FEATURES

**Form**
- upright spreading deciduous shrub
- can eventually become a rather large shrub
- to 35' tall x 35' wide in the wild, usually multi-stemmed and seldom reaches this height; 15-20' x 15-20' in landscape situations
- slow to medium growth rate on old wood; fast on suckers

**Culture**
- full sun to partial shade
- adapts to many soil types, but prefers a well-drained soil
- do particularly well in a dry soil situation
- suckers profusely and forms wide colonies
- Availability?
- no significant pests or diseases

### USAGE

**Function**
- mass planting for naturalizing and embankments, but in some gardens it can be used as a specimen because of its interesting growth habit

**Texture**
- medium texture in foliage, coarse when bare; cultivars fine in foliage, coarse when bare
- thick density in foliage, coarse when bare

**Assets**
- adaptable to stressful conditions
- erosion control due to suckering rooting ability
- foliage that becomes a mixture of colors in autumn
- no serious insect or disease problems

**Liabilities**
- gets out of bounds with age
- keep suckers controlled to keep the plant within its allotted space.

### SELECTIONS

**Alternates**
- spreading shrubs

**Habitat**
- Zones 3 to 8
- Native to Quebec to Ontario, south to Georgia, Indiana, Iowa

**Cultivars - Variants - Related species**
- 'Laciniata' - A cut-leaved form that can attain an unusual shape and develop orange autumn color.

*Rhus glabra* - Smooth Sumac - a spreading, suckering plant that is grown for its tolerant nature rather than its ornamental traits

**Flowers**
- dioecious (plants with male flowers only, female flowers only) or polygamous (plants with both male and female flowers)
- female flowers develop into bright red fruit spikelets in autumn
- yellowish-green
- female borne in dense, hairy panicles 4-8" long; male in bigger, looser, wider panicle

**Fruit**
- male and female flowers bloom in June to early July
- bright crimson in early autumn becoming duller and darker in winter; often still colorful into spring
- late Aug.-Apr.
- densely, hairy drupe in a terminal pyramidal panicle

**Twigs**
- dense, velvety reddish brown pubescence on younger stems
- older stems gray and smooth

**Trunk**
- NA

---

*Rhus glabra* - Smooth Sumac - a spreading, suckering plant that is grown for its tolerant nature rather than its ornamental traits

**Flowers**
- dioecious (plants with male flowers only, female flowers only) or polygamous (plants with both male and female flowers)
- female flowers develop into bright red fruit spikelets in autumn
- yellowish-green
- female borne in dense, hairy panicles 4-8" long; male in bigger, looser, wider panicle

**Fruit**
- male and female flowers bloom in June to early July
- bright crimson in early autumn becoming duller and darker in winter; often still colorful into spring
- late Aug.-Apr.
- densely, hairy drupe in a terminal pyramidal panicle

**Twigs**
- dense, velvety reddish brown pubescence on younger stems
- older stems gray and smooth

**Trunk**
- NA

---

*Rhus glabra* - Smooth Sumac - a spreading, suckering plant that is grown for its tolerant nature rather than its ornamental traits

**Flowers**
- dioecious (plants with male flowers only, female flowers only) or polygamous (plants with both male and female flowers)
- female flowers develop into bright red fruit spikelets in autumn
- yellowish-green
- female borne in dense, hairy panicles 4-8" long; male in bigger, looser, wider panicle

**Fruit**
- male and female flowers bloom in June to early July
- bright crimson in early autumn becoming duller and darker in winter; often still colorful into spring
- late Aug.-Apr.
- densely, hairy drupe in a terminal pyramidal panicle

**Twigs**
- dense, velvety reddish brown pubescence on younger stems
- older stems gray and smooth

**Trunk**
- NA

---

*Rhus glabra* - Smooth Sumac - a spreading, suckering plant that is grown for its tolerant nature rather than its ornamental traits

**Flowers**
- dioecious (plants with male flowers only, female flowers only) or polygamous (plants with both male and female flowers)
- female flowers develop into bright red fruit spikelets in autumn
- yellowish-green
- female borne in dense, hairy panicles 4-8" long; male in bigger, looser, wider panicle

**Fruit**
- male and female flowers bloom in June to early July
- bright crimson in early autumn becoming duller and darker in winter; often still colorful into spring
- late Aug.-Apr.
- densely, hairy drupe in a terminal pyramidal panicle

**Twigs**
- dense, velvety reddish brown pubescence on younger stems
- older stems gray and smooth

**Trunk**
- NA

---

*Rhus glabra* - Smooth Sumac - a spreading, suckering plant that is grown for its tolerant nature rather than its ornamental traits

**Flowers**
- dioecious (plants with male flowers only, female flowers only) or polygamous (plants with both male and female flowers)
- female flowers develop into bright red fruit spikelets in autumn
- yellowish-green
- female borne in dense, hairy panicles 4-8" long; male in bigger, looser, wider panicle

**Fruit**
- male and female flowers bloom in June to early July
- bright crimson in early autumn becoming duller and darker in winter; often still colorful into spring
- late Aug.-Apr.
- densely, hairy drupe in a terminal pyramidal panicle

**Twigs**
- dense, velvety reddish brown pubescence on younger stems
- older stems gray and smooth

**Trunk**
- NA

---

*Rhus glabra* - Smooth Sumac - a spreading, suckering plant that is grown for its tolerant nature rather than its ornamental traits

**Flowers**
- dioecious (plants with male flowers only, female flowers only) or polygamous (plants with both male and female flowers)
- female flowers develop into bright red fruit spikelets in autumn
- yellowish-green
- female borne in dense, hairy panicles 4-8" long; male in bigger, looser, wider panicle

**Fruit**
- male and female flowers bloom in June to early July
- bright crimson in early autumn becoming duller and darker in winter; often still colorful into spring
- late Aug.-Apr.
- densely, hairy drupe in a terminal pyramidal panicle

**Twigs**
- dense, velvety reddish brown pubescence on younger stems
- older stems gray and smooth

**Trunk**
- NA