Staghorn Sumac

Rhus typhina

Height: 19 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Description:

An exotic tall shrub with stout, pithy stems and tropical-looking compound leaves clustered at the ends, quite leggy; showy upright spikes of red-purple fruit lasting into winter and brilliant fall colors; suckers vigorously, ideal for naturalizing

Ornamental Features

Staghorn Sumac is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The crimson fruits are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance from late summer to late winter. It has spikes of yellow flowers rising above the foliage from early to mid summer. It has green deciduous foliage. The large narrow pinnately compound leaves turn an outstanding scarlet in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Staghorn Sumac is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a high maintenance shrub that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering



Staghorn Sumac in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Staghorn Sumac fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Staghorn Sumac is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Staghorn Sumac will grow to be about 19 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 5 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.



Staghorn Sumac in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.