

# Rhus hirta or Rhus typhina

Staghorn Sumac

Native to Maine

Upland Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas













## Leaves



Wayne National Forest, flickr.com



Look for leaves that are compound-pinnate with 11 to 31 leaflets, each 6 to 11 cm long.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

## Plant



KingsbraeGarden, flickr.com



Look for a deciduous shrub or small tree growing 3 to 10 m tall with widely-spread, forked branches and an open crown.

## Stem



KingsbraeGarden, flickr.com



Look for bark that is fuzzy when young (on upper branches), turning gray-brown and woody on lower stems.

## Seasonal Change



Mike, picasaweb



The foliage turns a brilliant red in autumn. In late summer through winter, look for fuzzy red fruit cones, 10 to 20 cm long, at the ends of branches.

[www.vitalsignsme.org](http://www.vitalsignsme.org)

## Similar Species

Staghorn sumac is similar to Poison sumac but is found in a different habitat. Poison sumac grows exclusively in very wet soils whereas Staghorn sumac is most often found in dry, poor soil. Staghorn sumac has long, pointed leaflets. Poison sumac leaflets are more oval.

## Fun Fact

Native Americans used the berries as a dye. They also made a lemonade-like drink from its crushed fruit.