Staghorn Sumac
Staghorn Sumac  
(*Rhus typhina*)

**General Description**
A large, loose, open-spreading shrub with a flattish crown and rather picturesque branches resembling the velvety antlers of a deer, hence the name Staghorn. Borderline hardiness, may regularly freeze back in winter.

**Leaves and Buds**
Bud Arrangement - Alternate.
Bud Color - Gray-brown.
Bud Size - Small, hairy, leaf scars not elevated and somewhat “C” shaped.
Leaf Type and Shape - Pinnately-compound, 11 to 27 leaflets per leaf.
Leaf Margins - Leaflets are acuminate, serrate.
Leaf Surface - Very pubescent or velvet-like when young, including petiole and rachis, glaucous beneath.
Leaf Length - 1 to 1½ feet; leaflets 2 to 4½ inches long.
Leaf Width - 4 to 9 inches; leaflets 1 to 1½ inches.
Leaf Color - Medium green, orange to red autumn color.

**Flowers and Fruits**
Flower Type - Dioecious, borne in dense, hairy 6 to 12 inch panicles.
Flower Color - Greenish-yellow.
Fruit Type - Densely hairy drupes packed in a pyramidal cluster.
Fruit Color - Red or crimson.

**Form**
Growth Habit - Upright, stout, branching, umbrella-like canopy.
Texture - Coarse, summer; coarse, winter.
Crown Height - 10 to 15 feet.
Crown Width - 10 to 20 feet.
Bark Color - Branches velvety and hairy concealing the lenticels, larger stems develop rough darkened bark.
Root System - Fibrous, spreading.

**Environmental Requirements**

**Soils**
Soil Texture - Adapted to a variety of soil types.
Soil pH - 4.5 to 7.5, but prefers acidic soils.
Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 3, 4, 4C, 5.

**Cold Hardiness**
USDA Zone 3. However, stem dieback often occurs.

**Water**
Slightly less drought tolerant than Smooth Sumac.

**Light**
Full sun, to partial shade.

**Uses**

**Conservation/Windbreaks**
Medium or large shrub for farmstead windbreaks and riparian plantings.

**Wildlife**
Excellent escape and nesting ground cover.

**Agroforestry Products**
Wood - Roots and inner bark used as a dye.
Food - Sumac lemonade made from berries.
Medicinal - Some *Rhus* species are used as tea for internal disorders, mouthwash, and constipation.

**Urban/Recreational**
Massing, naturalizing. Fast cover for bank stabilization. Cutleaf cultivars are most ornamental for landscaping.

**Cultivated Varieties**
Shredleaf Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina* 'Dissecta') - Finer-textured, lacy, fern-like leaves.
Cutleaf Staghorn Sumac (*R. typhina* 'Laciniata') - Similar to above.

**Related Species**
Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)

**Pests**
No major pest problems.