

North Dakota Tree Selector

Scientific Name: *Rhus typhina*

Family: Anacardiaceae
(Cashew)

Hardiness: Zone 4

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Shrub

Growth

Rate: Medium

Mature Height: >7'

Longevity: Medium

Power Line: Yes

Ornamental

Flowers: Inconspicuous

Fruit: Red hairy drupe

Fall Color: Red

Staghorn Sumac

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. Staghorn sumac has borderline hardiness in North Dakota and may regularly freeze back in winter.

Preferences

Light: Full sun to partial shade.

Water: Slightly less drought tolerant than smooth sumac.

Soil: Adaptable to a wide variety of soil types.

Comments

Best for naturalized areas where it can be allowed to spread via suckers and form colonies. Effective for erosion control when massed on slopes or in hard-to-cover areas with poorer soils.

Can be rejuvenated by cutting the stems back to the ground in late winter.

Cutleaf varieties, including Tiger Eyes® sumac, are available and offer superb texture and better fall coloration but may be marginally hardy.

Credits: Tree Selector Website, North Dakota Tree Handbook, <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c337>

