


**INVADER #4 of 4:
STAGHORN
AND SMOOTH
SUMAC**

Rhus typhina and glabra

HOW YOU CAN STOP SUMAC IN PRAIRIES

- 1 Get rid of it**
Sumac is a native plant in Minnesota; it's not always a problem for habitat. But it can outcompete native grasses and wildflowers in prairies, forming dense canopies and decreasing diversity. So before sumac goes to seed, pull up plants, including their extensive roots. For large areas, consider mowing, fire or critical cutting and treatment of stumps.
- 2 Stop the spread**
If you pull before it flowers, let the sumac decay where it is. But if it's flowered or gone to seed, bag what you've pulled and bring to an MDA-approved noxious weed composting site.
- 3 Follow up and replant**
Pull seedlings and young growth. Plant competitive native plants like bergamot and coneflower to provide more diverse habitat for wildlife.

Photo by Mary Rogers



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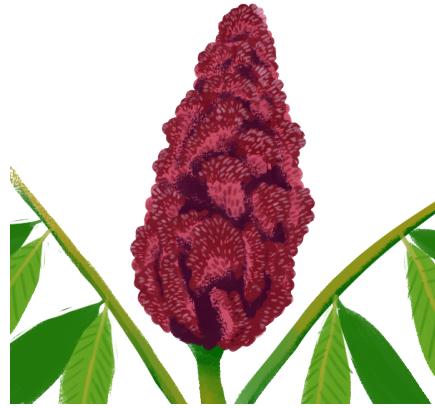
Photo by Mary Rogers

HOW TO IDENTIFY SUMAC

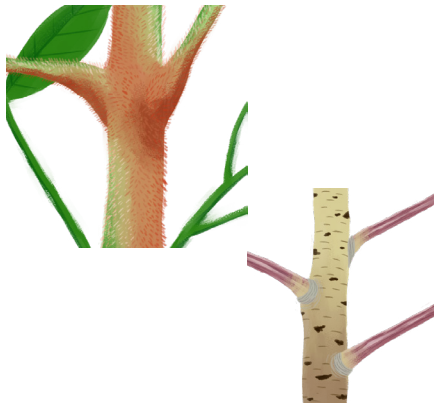
Look for it encroaching on the edges of prairies and oak savannas



Leaves are usually over a foot long, made up of 9-23 toothed, lance-shaped leaflets that turn bright red in the fall.



Both species have a pyramidal spike of seeds a few inches long. These clusters turn deep red. Mash, soak and strain the berries to make sumac-ade or tea!



Staghorn sumac's name comes from its early velvety (antler-like) branches. Smooth sumac's are sometimes red and, you guessed it, smooth.



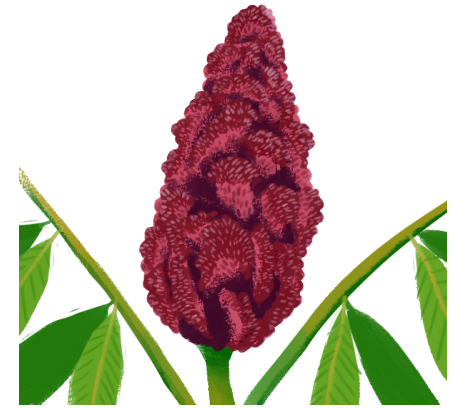
Sumac, a woody shrub, can grow quite tall, often standing between 10-20 feet. Its trunk forks into multiple branches which spread into a flat-topped crown.

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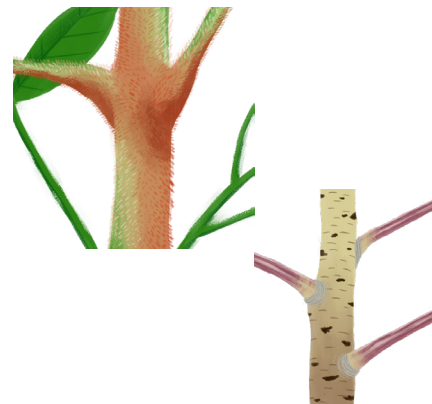
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Illustrations by Isaac Passwater (@isaacpasswaterillustration) for FMR



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