

Rhus aromatica

Fragrant Sumac

Height: 2 to 6 ft

Spread: 6 to 10 ft.

Sun: Full to part sun

Soil Moisture: Mesic to dry

Soil Types: Tolerant of a wide range of soils except those that are very poorly drained

Bloom Time: April

Bloom Description: In the fall, you will find male catkins that last all winter. In spring the yellow flowers appear before leaves emerge

Leaf: Fragrant when crushed (and the source of its common name). Somewhat citrusy fragrance. Attractive orange, red and purple in fall.

Fruit: Hairy red drupes that persist most of the winter and used as emergency food for birds.

Uses: Good for more naturalized areas, an informal hedge along a fence or tall ground cover for an area with very poor soil. Will stabilize banks and slopes.

Wildlife: Variety of birds, such as robins, goldfinches, sparrows and chickadees.

Nectar and Pollen: Early source of nectar and pollen for bees

Larval Host: Several moths and butterflies

Deer Resistant: Yes and No!

Comments:

This sumac is smaller and less aggressive than other sumacs, but still has the potential to grow aggressively. Its stems spread out horizontally and can root when they contact the soil, forming new shoots at that point. It also colonizes by underground stems. Control spread by mowing and pruning every three years by removing no more than a third of the oldest, largest canes.

