

## Winged sumac

### *Rhus copallinum*

#### Description

Introduced as an ornamental. It also has medicinal uses for skin rashes, dysentery, mouth sores and sunburn. It's bark is also widely used in the tanning industry.

#### Habit

Perennial shrub 4-10 ft tall, 1-3 ft in diameter; young twigs and leaf stalks softly-hairy and with raised dots.

#### Leaves

Alternate, pinnately compound, up to 12 in long, 7-15 leaflets per leaf, leaflets are lance-shaped with entire margins, rachis has prominent wings between the leaflets, shiny, dark green above, paler and a bit fuzzy below.

#### Stems

Woody, medium-textured, speckled with lenticels, and covered with fine, velvety, reddish brown hair; buds are small, rounded and hairy, leaf scars horseshoe-shaped. Light brown to gray in





color, smooth with numerous lenticels when young, later with large, thin scales.

### **Flowers**

Monoecious, greenish-yellow and small, borne on 3-5 in wide, terminal pyramid-shaped panicles; blooms May through November.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Dark red in color, round drupe borne on terminal cluster, 1/8 in long, covered with short, sticky, red hairs; matures in fall but present through winter.

### **Habitat**

Native to United States, plant has a tendency to become weedy in nature. Found in prairies, thickets, open woods, glades, roadsides, and railroads.

### **Reproduction**

By seed.

### **Similar**

Prairie sumac (*Rhus lanceolata*); smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*); staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*); poison sumac (*Toxicodendron vernix*);

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand-pulling for small infestations, controlled fire, basal bark treatments; effectively controlled using any of the several readily available general use herbicides such as triclopyr (Trade name Garlon).

### **Credits**

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation VTree. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual



Midwest Invasive Species  
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