

Shining Sumac



Shining Sumac *Rhus copallina*

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Flameleaf Sumac



Shining Sumac in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A large exotic-looking shrub with large pinnate frond-like leaves that turn a flaming red in fall, showy spikes of creamy white flowers in summer and red fruit in fall; suckers vigorously to form thickets, best used where its wandering nature is desirable

Ornamental Features

Shining Sumac is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The scarlet fruits are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance from early fall to late winter. It features bold spikes of creamy white flowers rising above the foliage from mid to late summer. It has green deciduous foliage. The large narrow pinnately compound leaves turn an outstanding scarlet in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Shining Sumac is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a high maintenance shrub that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Shining Sumac is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Shining Sumac will grow to be about 12 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

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This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.