

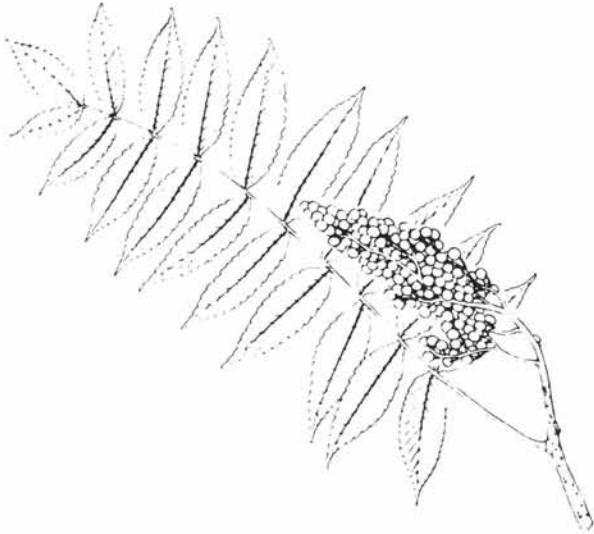
Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs



by Fred Opperman

Trivia question: What American tree is particularly suited for food containers?

This month's selection is great for mass plantings in out of the way areas. It has the tendency to spread by suckers and grows in colonies and groups. *Rhus glabra* — Smooth Sumac is a small tree reaching 15 to 20 feet in height. Trunks diameter will maybe reach 6-8 inches.



Leaves: Alternate, pinnately compound, with up to 31 leaflets; leaflets lance shaped, up to 4 inches long, less than 2 inches broad, sharp pointed at the apex, toothed along the edges, green and smooth on the upper surface, nearly white and smooth on the lower side. Leaves turn a brilliant orange purple red in the fall.

Bark: Light brown, smooth on the young plants, becoming somewhat rough at maturity.



Buds: More or less rounded, smooth, about 1/8 inch long.

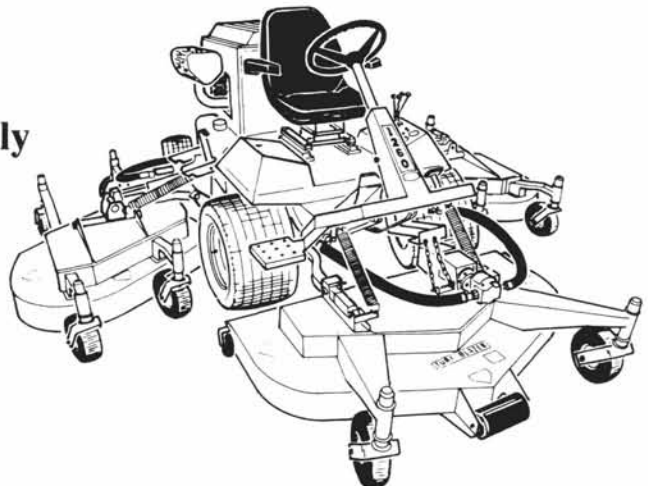
Flowers: Staminate and pistillate sometime borne on separate plants, sometimes on the same plant and sometimes in the same flower.

Fruit: Cluster of red berries, each berry round and smooth up to 1/8 inch in diameter and containing a single seed.

Trivia answer: The American beech, for it does not impart any taste or odor.

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