

Weed of The Week

2-22-2021

Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)

This week's weed of the week feature Staghorn Sumac, often found growing along the edge of fields, land clearings, roadsides, and even in urban areas is native to the eastern portion of the U.S. Staghorn Sumac grows well in poor conditions and can even be found growing in cracks of concrete. Research shows that this weed thrives in polluted environments. Part of the cashew family Staghorn Sumac is considered a woody shrub but can grow to heights of 30 ft tall in certain environments. The branches of this plant resemble the growth of a deer antler in turn receiving the name staghorn. Male and female flower will form in separate plants producing small green flower forming an 8-inch length pyramid shaped cluster. The fruit produced from the flower will be red berry like fruit covered with hair. Staghorn Sumac will flower in late June and continues through July providing wildlife feed throughout fall and winter. Birds are a common route of spreading but this weed can also spread from its rhizome root system. In most environments where Staghorn Sumac can spread and grow freely the center of the plant will be the oldest in age and younger sprouts will surround it. Controlling Staghorn Sumac can be a challenge but can be successful with diligence. Persistent moving can reduce populations and decrease survival. Herbicide treatments can be made by foliar, basal, or cut stem. Triclopyr herbicides have been shown to be the most effective herbicide for Staghorn Sumac.

