

Botanical Name: Rhus lancea

Common Name: African sumac

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an upright, mostly wide-spreading and multi-trunked tree,  
with irregular branching forming a loose rounded canopy; has conspicuous rough,  
dark red-brown bark on larger branches

Height 15-25' (30') Spread equal or more Growth Rate mod-rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun; does poorly in shaded habitats

Soil tolerates most, including desert alkaline soils

Hardiness some frost (zones 8,9,12-24); prefers heat and sun

Morphology:

Leaves trifoliate, alternate; leaflets are linear-falcate, 2-4"  
long, dark green, shiny, on 1-2" long petioles

Flowers yellow-green, inconspicuous, in axillary 1-2" long  
panicles; fall

Fruit a drupe; tiny, yellowish-red in panicle-clusters

Propagation: seed

Usage: an excellent accent tree for its picturesque form and  
foliage; shade tree, large background screen; used as a large street tree in  
low elevation desert habitats

Landscape Care:

Watering regular is preferred; but can tolerate drought after  
established

Fertilizing little needed after established

Pruning head high and develop primary branch structure; thin out

Pests/Diseases relatively free; suffers from Texas root rot in desert

Special Conditions

Origin: Africa Family: Anacardiaceae