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*Rhus aromatica*

[Synonyms : *Betula triphylla*, *Lobadium aromaticum*, *Rhus canadensis*, *Rhus crenata*, *Rhus suaveolens*, *Schmaltzia aromatica*, *Schmaltzia crenata*, *Turpinia pubescens*]

**FRAGRANT SUMACH** is a deciduous shrub. Native to eastern North America it has tiny yellowish flowers and leaves that turn to orange and scarlet in the Autumn.

It is also known as *Duftender Sumach* (German), Fragrant sumac, *Gewürzsumach* (German), Lemon sumac, Polecat bush, Skunk bush, *Stinkbusch* (German), Stink bush, Sweet-scented sumac, Sweet-scented sumach, and Sweet sumach.

*Aromatica* is derived from Greek *aroma* (spice) meaning ‘aromatic, fragrant or scented’. Some North American Indian tribes soaked the hairy brilliant-red berries to make a drink, but the Midoo tribe ate them crushed.

The split stems were used by some of the tribes for basketwork, and some of the Dakota Indians smoked the leaves in tobacco mixtures.

Medicinally, the root bark was used as a remedy for vaginal discharges, diarrhoea, dysentery and kidney and bladder disorders. Today it can be used in the treatment of incontinence.