

SIZE: Up to 5 m tall, mainly 1-3 m in NS.

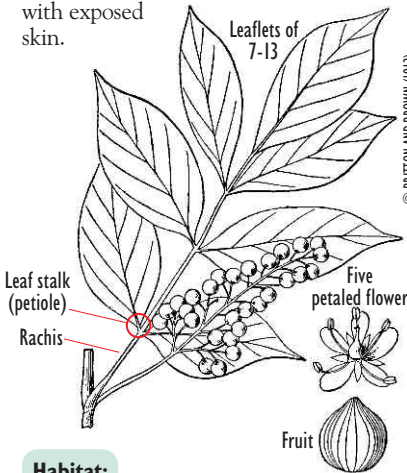
LEAVES: In groups of 7-13 leaflets, each 4-5 cm long. Leaflets are on smooth reddish stalks (petioles), have smooth edges, are inversely egg-shaped (obovate) or elliptical and are paired (opposite) along a common branch (rachis). They gradually become purplish red in the fall.

STEM: Smooth, greyish brown and spotted with slightly raised visible pores (lenticels). Often branched from the base and typically highly branched in the upper portion.

FLOWERS: Small, greyish white, 4-5 mm long and arranged in drooping clusters.

FRUITS: Grape-like clusters of small, pale green or grey round berry-like fruits (drupes) 4-5 mm in length.

NOTES: This species is usually dioecious, meaning that an individual plant will exclusively produce male or female flowers. It is related to Poison Ivy and can cause severe dermatitis if any part of the plant comes into contact with exposed skin.



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Clusters of fruit



Leaflets



Leaflet undersides



David by Poison Sumac

Habitat:

Wet boggy or swampy lakeshores and stream margins.

Interesting point: This species, which is believed to be more toxic than Poison Ivy, is only known to occur at one location in NS.

Similar species: None.