



RHUS VIRENS VAR. VIRENS EVERGREEN SUMAC

OUTSTANDING FEATURES: Evergreen Sumac has shiny green foliage and large clusters of white flowers that attract butterflies.

DESCRIPTION: *Rhus virens var. virens* is a large, evergreen shrub that grows to 8 feet tall and 12 feet wide. The thick, leathery leaves are composed of 3-5 leaflets, each measuring 1-2 inches long. Large clusters of tiny butterfly-attracting white flowers appear on the branch tips in late summer and fall.

CULTURE/MAINTENANCE: *Rhus virens var. virens* is hardy to at least 5° F and possibly lower. It remains evergreen even during the coldest winters. Evergreen Sumac is drought tolerant, although it will tolerate quite a bit of supplemental water while actively growing. Its growth rate is moderate to moderately fast depending on the amount of supplemental water applied. It seems to be tolerant of a wide range of soils, growing well in a rocky, fast draining soil or in a somewhat poorly drained soil. If the soil drainage is not good, allow the soil to dry out between irrigations. There is virtually no maintenance required, as the shrub does not need to be pruned. Plant only in full sun exposures.

IDENTIFICATION: *Rhus virens var. virens* is easily identified by its thick, dark green, shiny leaves and clusters of white flowers.

LANDSCAPE APPLICATION: Evergreen Sumac is useful as a large shrub or screen. It is tolerant of a wide range of conditions and can be used in the transition or outer zones of a xeriscape. The shrub is useful in a butterfly garden because the Queen Butterfly will feed at the flower clusters. This is one of those plants that, because of its size, can be used in conjunction with large accent plants and trees. It blends well with large, green leaved Yuccas such as *Yucca decipiens*, *Yucca grandiflora*, and *Yucca schottii*. In nature *Rhus choriophylla* grows in the oak zone, so it looks great in landscapes with many of the *Quercus* species commercially available. Some other plant combinations could include *Agave parryi*, *Agave scabra*, *Chrysothamnus naseosus*, *Fouquieria splendens*, *Sophora secundiflora*, and *Viguiera deltoidea*.

PRECAUTIONS: There are no real problems associated with *Rhus virens var. virens*. This plant is very drought tolerant once established, although it may look a little stressed in the heat of summer. Evergreen Sumac can tolerate supplemental water without rotting, provided the roots are not in standing water. Rabbits and javelina do not bother established plants, although small plants should be screened as a precaution. Plants in the wild do not show evidence of being browsed by deer.



SHRUB

SHRUBS

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ATTRACTS BUTTERFLIES!



A Queen Butterfly visiting the flowers of Evergreen Sumac.

AT A GLANCE SUMMARY	
SIZE (HEIGHT x WIDTH)	8 feet x 12 feet
FLOWER COLOR	White
FLOWER SEASON	Late summer through fall
EXPOSURE	Full sun
WATER	Low
GROWTH RATE	Moderate
HARDINESS	5° F USDA 7
PRUNING	None
HARDY IN THESE CITIES	Tucson, Phoenix, Palm Desert, San Diego, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas.

For more information, call: toll-free (800) 840-8509 or (623) 247-8509
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