

American Smoke Tree

Cotinus obovatus

Cotinus obovatus more commonly known as the American smoke tree. It is a small deciduous, rounded Missouri native tree. Upright shrub typically growing 20-30" tall.

Leaves: Alternate simple deciduous oval to obovate 1" to 3" long rounded tip entire glabrous. Dark green to bluish – green or purple, depending on cultivar yellow to red fall color sometimes exceptionally intense.

Twigs/ buds: Twigs stout purple to brown with whitish waxing coating that rubs off; obvious small lenticels orange – brown solid pith; strong odor when crushed. Buds are small and scaly red brown and pointed.

Flowers / fruit: Flowers dioecious tiny yellow inconspicuous many do not fully develop; borne on a 6" to 8" long and wide inflorescence in May to June. Fruit 1/8" to 1/4" wide, dry drupe. The stalks of flowers and fruit are very showy and smoky looking because of their hairy pink or purple stalks.

Bark is thin gray furrowed and scaly the wood is yellow. They grow in average medium moisture well-drained somewhat infertile looms.

This tree is located near the sexton's office at the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

