

Redosier Dogwood



Redosier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

General Description

An open, spreading, multi-stemmed, medium to large shrub with horizontal branches at the base. Freely stoloniferous as it spreads by natural layering of lower, relatively prostrate stems. Dark, blood-red bark provides winter color.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Opposite.

Bud Color - Deep red-brown to purplish-black in color, valvate.

Bud Size - 1/8 inch.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, ovate to oblong-lanceolate.

Leaf Margins - Entire margins.

Leaf Surface - Nearly smooth with arcuate venation.

Leaf Length - 2 to 5 inches.

Leaf Width - 1 to 2½ inches.

Leaf Color - Medium to dark green above, glaucous beneath; purple fall color.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Flat-topped creamy cymes 1½ to 2½ inches in diameter borne in late May through June.

Flower Color - Dull white.

Fruit Type - Drupe, 1/5 inch in diameter.

Fruit Color - White.

Form

Growth Habit - Loose and rounded in form with many stems.

Texture - Medium, summer; medium-coarse, winter.

Crown Height - 7 to 10 feet.

Crown Width - 10 to 15 feet.

Bark Color - Dark, blood-red.

Root System - Shallow, fibrous, spreads by stoloniferous branches.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Adaptable to a variety of soils.

Soil pH - 5.0 to 7.5.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 2, 3, 4, 4C.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 2.

Water

Grows best in moist to somewhat wet loams.

Light

Full sun to partial shade.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium to tall shrub for farmstead and field windbreaks, riparian plantings, and highway beautification.

Wildlife

Fruit and twigs are used by several species of wildlife, such as robins, cedar waxwings, rabbits, and deer. Provides dense cover for a large number of wildlife species.

Agroforestry Products

Medicinal - Used in cancer therapy, to treat fevers and sore mouths, and as an astringent and teeth cleaning stick.

Urban/Recreational

Used for screen, massing, bank cover, border, and specimen plantings.

Cultivated Varieties

Bergeson Compact Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* 'Bergeson Compact') - Superior red twigs; fall color and density.

Cardinal Dogwood (*C. sericea* 'Cardinal') - Coral-red twigs; fall color and density of mediocre quality.

Isanti Dogwood (*C. sericea* 'Isanti') - Very dense, less rank growing.

Silver and Gold Dogwood (*C. sericea* 'Silver and Gold') - Variegated leaves and yellow twigs.

Yellowtwig Dogwood (*C. sericea* 'Flaviramea') - Yellow stems, often sunscald in winter.

Related Species

Coral Beauty Dogwood (*Cornus alba* 'Coral Beauty')

Gray Dogwood (*C. racemosa*)

Indigo Dogwood (*C. amomum* 'Indigo')

Ivory Halo Dogwood (*C. alba* 'Bailhalo')

Pagoda Dogwood (*C. alternifolia*)

Siberian Dogwood (*C. alba* 'Sibirica')

Silky Dogwood (*C. amomum*)

Variegated Dogwood (*C. alba* 'Argenteo-marginata')

Pests

Twig blight (canker) may be a disease problem.