

# Cornus canadensis

Native to Maine

Bunchberry  
Creeping Dogwood

Upland  
Forests

## Leaves



Vital Signs user BlueHillGardener



The leaf arrangement is opposite, but clusters of 6 leaves seem to be in a whorl because separations between leaves are very small. Leaves have parallel veins (veins go in the same direction and do not cross).

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

## Plant



Robert H. Mohlenbrock, USDA-NRCS



Look for a slow growing perennial (living three or more years), leafy, low shrub growing 10-20 cm tall and forming carpet-like colonies under trees.

## Stem



Wiki Commons user Walter Siegmund



Look for stems that are slender and unbranched. The bottom part of stems can be woody and the rest of the stem is green.

## Seasonal Change



Vital Signs user BlueHillGardener



In early summer look for 4 showy, white to purple bracts (leaflike parts just below the flower) that are 1-2 cm long. The red, fleshy berries ripen by midsummer.

## Similar Species

The vegetation of *Medeola virginiana* (Indian cucumber) can look similar to bunchberry (both have oval, dark green leaves with parallel veins), but bunchberry has bright white bracts (leaflike parts just below the flower) that Indian cucumber does not have.

## Did You Know?

Bunchberry has an explosive pollination mechanism. A tiny antennae near the tip of a petal triggers the flower buds to bend back, releasing springy filaments that are underneath the petals. The filaments snap upward flinging pollen out of containers hinged to the filaments.