

Cornus sericea

Redtwig Dogwood
Red Osier Dogwood

Native to Maine

Upland

Leaves



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Look for leaves that are opposite and oval with a pointed tip. In spring and summer months leaves are dark green on top with paler, hairy bottoms. In the fall leaf color changes to purplish red.

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



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Redtwig Dogwood is a woody, deciduous (loses its leaves in the fall), perennial (living three or more years), rounded or spreading shrub that is 1.5-4 m tall.

Stem



Robert H. Mohlenbrock, USDA-NRCS



Look for a multi-stemmed shrub with stolons (creeping stems that grow on the ground). Branches and twigs are usually red, but can change to green in the spring.

Seasonal Change



Wiki Commons user Curtis Clark



In summer months look for clusters of 2-3 mm white flowers. In early fall look for white to pale blue berries that are less than 1 cm in diameter.

Similar Species

Tatarian Dogwood is similar to Redtwig Dogwood. Both shrubs have opposite, simple leaves and red stems in the winter. Differences include: Tatarian bears fruit earlier than Redtwig and Tatarian usually has yellowish flowers versus Redtwig, which has white flowers.

Fun Fact

Long slim stems were used by Native Americans for basket weaving and are still used by present-day crafters. Native Americans also used the plant to treat fevers and coughs and obtained dyes from the bark and roots.

Researched and created by: Rebecca Martin

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.



Gulf of Maine
Research Institute



www.vitalsignsme.org