

# Silky Dogwood



## *Cornus amomum*

- **Use:** Silky/Swamp Dogwood is a deciduous tree that may grow 10 to 15 feet tall. The leaves are alternate and acutely veined with a smooth margin. The bark is smooth and red-purple in young trees. As the tree ages, the bark turns brown and develops shallow fissures. In late spring, small, white flowers mature in clusters. The small tree produces berries that develop in flat-topped clusters. This shrub is also commonly called swamp dogwood in reference to habitat and kinnikinnik (tobacco) in reference to a prior use of shrub bark by Native Americans as tobacco.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Tolerates close to full shade. Benefits from a 2-4" mulch which will help keep roots cool and moist in summer. Branches that touch the ground may root at the nodes. When left alone, this shrub may spread to form thickets.
- **Growth:** Grows 6-12' tall and wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 5-8; shrub
- **Foliage:** Deciduous, Oval to elliptic, medium green leaves (2-5" long) have conspicuous veins. Attractive fall color is usually absent.
- **Flower:** The showy white spring flowers are followed by blue fruits that the birds will happily eat.



Good shrub for moist to wet areas of the landscape. Not overly ornamental. Somewhat wild and unkempt for placement in prominent areas. Good selection for moist woodlands, naturalized areas, along streams/ponds or for erosion

Photos from NC Extension



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