

Gray Dogwood



An underutilized and quite showy shrub for general garden or massing use; white flowers in spring, white

berries in fall on showy pink stems, and good fall color; very adaptable. Good for erosion control near embankments.

Cornus racemosa

- **Use:** Typically occurs in moist or rocky ground along streams, ponds, wet meadows, glade and prairie margins, thickets and rocky bluffs. Red stem color is more easily seen after the fruits are gone, and red color often persists into early winter. Excellent when planted in groups and left alone to spread in naturalized areas or native plant gardens. Also effective in shrub borders, along streams or ponds or near buildings or when planted as a screen. Can be particularly useful because of its ability to grow in poor soils.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Part sun-shade, but will tolerate full sun in wet areas. Moist, well-drained soil, but not soggy. Will adapt to drier sites. Used in erosion control and for wildlife habitat. Resistant to most diseases, insects and physiological problems.
- **Growth:** Moderate grower to 1-15 ft. tall, 10-15 ft. wide. Stoloniferous habit (will spread by underground stems)
- **Hardiness:** Zone 4-8;
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. Grayish-green, elliptic to lance-shaped leaves (2-4" long). Foliage turns an interesting (but not always showy) dusky purplish red in fall.
- **Flower:** Features white flowers borne in terminal racemes in late spring and Terminal stems holding the flowers are distinctively red and provide interesting contrast to the clusters of small white berries which form after the flowers have dropped. Many insects, including bees and butterflies, are attracted to this plant for pollen and nectar. Fruits are a good food source for many songbirds.

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