Redosier Dogwood
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(*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.