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Cornus amomum



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Common Name: dogwood 

Type: Deciduous shrub

Family: Cornaceae

Native Range: Eastern North America

Zone: 5 to 8

Height: 6.00 to 12.00 feet

Spread: 6.00 to 12.00 feet

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Description: Yellowish white

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Medium

Suggested Use: Hedge, Rain Garden

Flower: Showy

Attracts: Birds

Fruit: Showy

Tolerate: Deer, Erosion, Wet Soil, Black Walnut

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Culture

Grow in average, medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, organically rich, slightly acidic soils in part shade. 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.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Cornus amomum, commonly called silky dogwood, is a medium-sized deciduous shrub that is typically found in moist lowland areas, swamp borders, floodplains, shrub wetlands, and along streams and ponds in Eastern North America (New Foundland to Ontario south to Missouri, Mississippi and Florida). Twigs and leaf undersides have silky hairs, hence the common name. This dogwood typically grows to 6-12' tall with an open-rounded form. Tiny yellowish-white flowers (showy petal-like white bracts are absent) in flat-topped clusters (cymes to 2.5" across) bloom in late spring to early summer. Flowers give way to attractive berry-like drupes that change from white to blue as they ripen in late summer (August). Birds are attracted to the fruit. Oval to elliptic, medium green leaves (2-5" long) have conspicuous veins. Attractive fall color is usually absent. Twigs are purplish brown in spring, and have a distinctive brown pith. Genus name comes from the Latin word for horn (reference to hard wood). This shrub is also commonly called swamp dogwood in reference to habitat and *kinnkinnik* (tobacco) in reference to a prior use of shrub bark by Native Americans as tobacco.

Genus name comes from the Latin word *cornu* meaning horn in probable reference to the strength and density of the wood. *Cornus* is also the Latin name for cornelian cherry.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Plants are susceptible to scale. Additional insect pests include borers and leaf miner. Infrequent disease problems include leaf spot, crown canker, blights, root rot and powdery mildew.

Uses

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 steams/ponds or for erosion control.



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Cornus racemosa

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Species Native to Missouri

Common Name: gray dogwood 

Type: Deciduous shrub

Family: Cornaceae

Native Range: Eastern North America

Zone: 4 to 8

Height: 10.00 to 15.00 feet

Spread: 10.00 to 15.00 feet

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Description: White

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Rain Garden

Flower: Showy

Leaf: Good Fall

Attracts: Birds, Butterflies

Tolerate: Deer, Wet Soil

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Culture

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerates wide range of soil conditions, including both moist and somewhat dry soils. Tolerant of city air pollution. Will spread to form thickets if root suckers are not removed.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Cornus racemosa, commonly called gray dogwood, is a deciduous shrub which is native to Missouri and typically occurs in moist or rocky ground along streams, ponds, wet meadows, glade and prairie margins, thickets and rocky bluffs. It grows 10-15' tall and features white flowers borne in terminal racemes (hence the species name of *racemosa*) in late spring and grayish-green, elliptic to lance-shaped leaves (2-4" long). Foliage turns an interesting (but not always showy) dusky purplish red in fall. 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. Red stem color is more easily seen after the fruits are gone, and red color often persists into early winter.

Genus name comes from the Latin word *cornu* meaning horn in probable reference to the strength and density of the wood. *Cornus* is also the Latin name for cornelian cherry.

Specific epithet refers to the flowers being produced in racemes.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. The dogwood bud gall occurs on this species but is usually not a significant problem.

Uses

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.



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Cornus sericea



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Common Name: red twig dogwood

Type: Deciduous shrub

Family: Cornaceae

Native Range: North America

Zone: 3 to 7

Height: 6.00 to 9.00 feet

Spread: 7.00 to 10.00 feet

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Description: White

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Medium

Suggested Use: Hedge, Rain Garden

Flower: Showy

Leaf: Good Fall

Attracts: Birds, Butterflies

Fruit: Showy

Other: Winter Interest

Tolerate: Deer, Erosion, Clay Soil, Wet Soil

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Culture

Best grown in organically rich, fertile, consistently moist soils in full sun to part shade. Tolerant of a wide range of soils, including swampy or boggy conditions. Trim roots with a spade and promptly remove root suckers if colonial spread is undesired. Best stem color occurs on young stems. Although pruning is not required, many gardeners choose to remove 20-25% of the oldest stems in early spring of each year to stimulate growth of new stems which will display the best color. As an alternative to annual pruning, some gardeners prune all stems close to the ground (coppice to 8") in early spring every 2-3 years to renew. Any loss of flowers through spring pruning is not terribly significant since the small flowers of this dogwood are rather ordinary. Plants become stressed and more vulnerable to diseases such as canker in hot and humid summer climates south of USDA Zone 7.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Cornus sericea, commonly known as red twig dogwood or red osier dogwood, is an upright-spreading, suckering shrub that typically grows in the absence of pruning to 6-9' tall with a slightly larger spread. With the exception of the lower midwest and deep South, this species is native to much of North America where it is typically found growing in wet swampy areas, wetland margins or along lakes and rivers. Ovate to lanceolate, medium to dark green leaves (2-5" long) acquire interesting shades of red to orange eventually fading to purple in autumn. Reddish stems turn bright red in winter and are particularly showy against a snowy backdrop. Tiny, fragrant, white flowers appear in flat-topped clusters (cymes to 2.5" diameter) in late spring, with sparse, intermittent, additional flowering sometimes continuing into summer. Flowers give way to clusters of whitish (sometimes with a bluish tinge) drupes in summer. Fruit is quite attractive to birds and is generally considered to have as much if not more ornamental interest than the flowers.

Red stems somewhat resemble the reddish stems of some osier willows, hence the common name of red osier dogwood. Some cultivars of this species (e.g., *C. sericea* 'Flaviramia') have yellow stems.

Synonymous with and formerly known as *Cornus stolonifera*.

Genus name comes from the Latin word *cornu* meaning horn in probable reference to the strength and density of the wood. *Cornus* is also the Latin name for cornelian cherry.

Specific epithet from Latin means silky in reference to the hairs present on young twigs and upper leaf surfaces.

Problems

Susceptible to leaf and twig blights, canker and leaf spots. Scale, leaf miners and bagworms are occasional insect pests.

Uses

Excellent massed or as a specimen. Effective in shrub borders where plants can be combined with evergreens or a contrasting color of redbud dogwoods for interesting winter contrast. Also effective in naturalistic plantings in moist soils where plants can be allowed to spread and form thickets. Plants perform very well in wet locations such as low spots or along streams or ponds where spreading roots can help combat soil erosion. May also be used as a property line screen.



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Rhus copallinum var. *latifolia* 'Morton'

PRAIRIE FLAME

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Common Name: dwarf sumac
 Type: Deciduous shrub
 Family: Anacardiaceae
 Zone: 4 to 9
 Height: 5.00 to 7.00 feet
 Spread: 6.00 to 10.00 feet
 Bloom Time: July to August
 Bloom Description: Greenish-yellow
 Sun: Full sun to part shade
 Water: Dry to medium
 Maintenance: Low
 Suggested Use: Naturalize
 Flower: Showy
 Leaf: Good Fall
 Tolerate: Rabbit, Drought, Erosion, Dry Soil, Shallow-Rocky Soil

[Garden locations](#)

Culture

Easily grown in average, dry to medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Tolerant of a wide range of soils except for those that are poorly drained. This shrub spreads over time by root suckers to form colonies.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Rhus copallinum, commonly called dwarf sumac, flameleaf sumac, winged sumac and shining sumac, is a multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub that is native to eastern North America from New York to Alabama and Florida. It is a deciduous shrub or small tree which occurs in dryish soils on hillsides, open woods, glades, fields and along the margins of roadsides, railroad tracks and roads throughout most of the central and southern parts of the State. It is a large open shrub which typically grows to 10' tall (rarely to 30' as a tree) and spreads by root suckers to form large colonies in the wild. It is very similar to smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), except (a) leaflets are untoothed and (b) leaf midribs have leafy ridges or wings that give rise to another common name of winged sumac for this plant. Large, compound, odd-pinnate leaves (each with 9-21 untoothed, oblong-lanceolate, shiny dark green leaflets). Leaves turn flame red in autumn. Tiny, greenish-yellow flowers bloom in terminal pyramidal panicles in late spring to early summer, with separate male and female flowers usually occurring on separate plants (dioecious). Pollinated female flowers produce showy fruiting clusters (to 8" long). Each cluster contains numerous hairy, berry-like drupes which ripen in autumn, gradually turning maroon-brown as they persist through much of the winter. Fruit is attractive to wildlife.

Var. *latifolia* is native to a larger area of eastern and central North America ranging from Maine to Nebraska south to Texas and Florida. Var. *latifolia* is primarily distinguished from species plants by its leaves (5-13 broad oblong to narrow ovate leaflets that are rounded at the base in comparison to species plants which typically have 9-21 narrower lance-shaped to linear-oblong leaflets that are narrowed to the base). Shrubs native to Missouri are var. *latifolia*. They are typically found in dryish soils on hillsides, open woods, glades, fields and along the margins of roadsides, railroad tracks and roads throughout most of the central and southern parts of the State (Steyermark). This shrub typically matures to 15-20' tall and spreads by root suckers. It is densely branched when young, but opens up somewhat with age.

Genus name comes from the Greek name for one species, *Rhus coriaria*.

Specific epithet means gummy or resinous.

PRAIRIE FLAME was introduced by the Morton Arboretum (Lisle, Illinois). It is noted for its compact size, glossy green summer foliage and spectacular red fall color. It is a male cultivar (plants are dioecious) that does not produce fruiting clusters. It typically grows to 5-7' tall and spreads by root suckers.

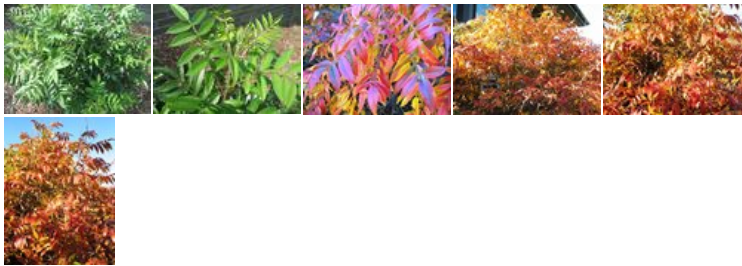
Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Some susceptibility to verticillium wilt, leaf spots, rusts, powdery mildew, scale, aphids and mites.

Uses

This sumac is one of the most ornamental of the sumacs, featuring flower panicles in spring, shiny dark green summer foliage and excellent fall foliage color. It is an interesting selection for the landscape. It grows well in dry, informal, naturalized areas where it can be allowed to spread and form colonies. It is effective when massed on slopes for erosion control or in hard-to-cover areas with poorer soils. Naturalize in open woodland areas, wood margins or wild areas. Although it spreads by root suckers, it is not considered by most experts to be invasive and is sometimes suggested as a fall color substitute for *Euonymus alatus* which is invasive.

PRAIRIE FLAME has excellent fall foliage color and compact size.



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Cephalanthus occidentalis

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Species Native to Missouri

Common Name: [buttonbush](#) 

Type: Deciduous shrub

Family: Rubiaceae

Native Range: North America

Zone: 5 to 9

Height: 5.00 to 12.00 feet

Spread: 4.00 to 8.00 feet

Bloom Time: June

Bloom Description: White

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Rain Garden

Flower: Showy, Fragrant

Attracts: Butterflies

Fruit: Showy

Other: Winter Interest

Tolerate: Erosion, Wet Soil

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Culture

Easily grown in moist, humusy soils in full sun to part shade. Grows very well in wet soils, including flood conditions and shallow standing water. Adapts to a wide range of soils except dry ones. Pruning is usually not necessary, but may be done in early spring to shape. If plants become unmanageable, however, they may be cut back near to the ground in early spring to revitalize.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Buttonbush is a somewhat coarse, deciduous shrub with an open-rounded habit that typically grows 6-12' (infrequently to 20') tall. It is common throughout Missouri, most frequently occurring in wet open areas, low woods, thickets, swamps, upland sink-hole ponds, river bottomland and stream/pond margins (Steyermark). Tiny, tubular, 5-lobed, fragrant white flowers appear in dense, spherical, long-stalked flower heads (to 1.5" diameter) in early to mid-summer. Long, projecting styles give the flower heads a distinctively pincushion-like appearance. Flower heads are very attractive to bees and butterflies. Flower heads mature into hard spherical ball-like fruits consisting of multiple tiny two-seeded nutlets. Fruiting heads usually persist throughout the winter. Ovate to elliptic glossy bright green leaves (to 6" long) are in pairs or whorls. Leaves emerge late in spring (May). Genus name comes from the Greek words *cephalo* (head) and *anthos* (flower).

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems.

Garden Uses

Naturalize in woodland areas, native plant gardens, pond margins, low spots or shrub borders. May also be grown in shallow water at the edge of ponds or large water gardens.