

Cornus sericea L.

Fam: Cornaceae

Red-osier dogwood

Synonyms : *Cornus stolonifera* Michx., *Thelycrania sericea* (L.) Dandy, *Swida sericea* (L.) Holub

Ecology : Red-osier dogwood is found on moist, nutrient-rich soils. The species spreads by seed, root suckers and by layering when branches touch the ground. The species is planted as an ornamental and is hardy.

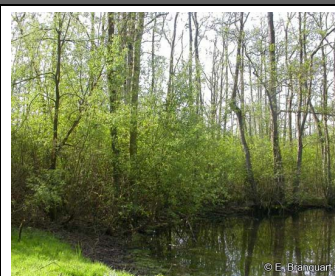
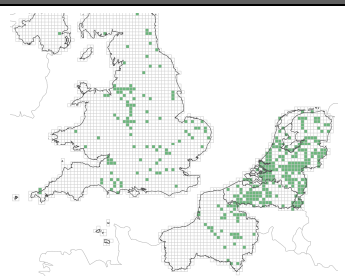
Threat : Red-osier dogwood can proliferate in both open and forested moist natural areas. It can form dense stands of vegetation, displacing the native plants.

Control : In the Netherlands Red-osier dogwood is not invasive yet. In the UK, France and Belgium it is naturalized. As the plant produces berries, birds may disperse the seeds very rapidly over a wide area. Cutting induces vigorous re-growth from roots and branches.

Identification / similar species : Naturalized plants belong to a complex of hybrids of Red-osier dogwood and *Cornus alba*. Possibly both species should be considered as one. Both species are characterized by white berries and leaf blades that measure up to 10cm in length, each with 6 to 7 pair of veins, hairs and a slightly paler underside. The difference between the two species is the shape of the fruit (more long than wide in *C. alba*) and the extent to which layering occurs.



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