



Photographer: Smith, R.W.



Photographer: Wasowski, Sally and Andy

IMAGES ABOVE ARE OF SILKY DOGWOOD

When someone mentions dogwood, most everyone in the eastern U.S. will think of *Cornus florida*, the iconic tree of spring and our state tree. That's a tree you probably know well, but you may not have met some of the shrubby members of the family. This year we offer two shrub dogwoods...

Cornus amomum ***Cornus racemosa***
Silky dogwood **Gray dogwood**

These plants are typically multistemmed and are sometimes considered to be small trees. Plants have small white blooms in flat-topped clusters that are followed by berries. Long, arching branches may root where they touch the ground.

Light: Part shade. Sun if the site is moist or wet.

Soil: Soil with organic matter is preferred. Mulch is beneficial. Moist soils are preferred, but the plants are adaptable to drier, shadier sites.

Flower: Blooms late spring. Clusters of small, white or cream blooms.

Please check the links below for more specifics on each species.

The shrub dogwoods have a lot to offer our urban plant communities. We should become better acquainted! Most are quite adaptable and attractive in all seasons and do their part to prevent erosion. The dogwood family supports about 120 species of insects. Yes, you read that right – supports insects (specifically moth and butterfly species) – and that is a good thing. You see, we need caterpillars for baby birds and other critters to eat. Without the bugs, the birds and others will not survive.

Birds eat the berries and the plant also supports beneficial insects.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SILKY HERE](#)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT GRAY HERE](#)