

alternate-leaf dogwood *Cornaceae* *Cornus alternifolia* L. f.

 symbol: COAL2

vTree

Leaf: Alternate, simple, oval to ovate, 2 1/2 to 5 inches long, arcuate venation, leaves tend to cluster near branch tips so they may appear whorled or opposite, margins may be somewhat wavy, green above and paler below.

Flower: Species is monoecious; small, white, in flat-topped clusters, 2 to 4 inches across, appearing in late spring.

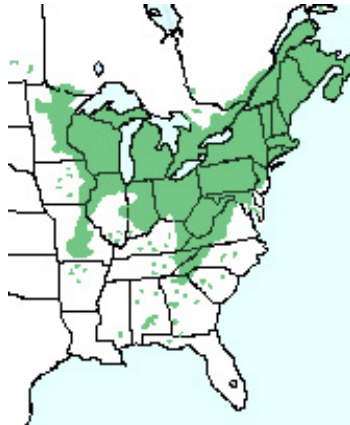
Fruit: Bluish-black drupe in clusters, (3/8 inch in diameter); fruit stalks turn reddish, ripen in late summer.

Twig: Slender, red to dark purple, pith white; terminal buds small (1/4 inch long), ovoid with two or three scales showing, leaf scars small and narrow; dead twigs turn a yellow-orange.

Bark: Smooth, dark green, streaky; eventually turns light brown and develops shallow fissures.

Form: Large shrub, may occasionally reach 30 feet tall; slender branches often horizontal with the ground; developing a flat-topped crown.

Looks like: [flowering dogwood](#) - [roughleaf dogwood](#) - [silky dogwood](#) - [red-osier dogwood](#)



Additional Range Information:

Cornus alternifolia is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting alternate-leaf dogwood.](#)

External Links:

[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)
[USDA Plants Database](#)

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