Red Osier Dogwood

Cornus sericea

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: C.stolonifera

Description:

One of the best general purpose shrubs for northern landscapes, very hardy; white flowers are followed by showy white berries; good fall color, brilliant red stems are highlighted by winter snow; can grow quite large, tends to sucker



Red Osier Dogwood stems
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Red Osier Dogwood in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Red Osier Dogwood has clusters of creamy white flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. It has green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves turn an outstanding brick red in the fall. It produces white berries in late summer. The red branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Red Osier Dogwood is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Red Osier Dogwood is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Red Osier Dogwood will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is an amazingly adaptable plant, tolerating both dry conditions and even some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.



Red Osier Dogwood in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder