



**Common Name:** Red Twig Dogwood, Red-Osier Dogwood

**Plant Type:** Woody Shrub

**Light Requirements:** full sun-partial shade

**Height:** 5-9 ft.

**Width:** 5-9 ft

**Bloom Time:** Spring

**Hardiness Zone:** 2-7

Photo: Proven Winners

## **Cornus sericea (Red Twig Dogwood)**

*Cornus sericea* (synonym *Cornus stolonifera*) is an upright, multi-stemmed deciduous in the Cornaceae (Dogwood) family. It grows between 5-9 feet tall depending on the cultivar. It is native to North America. Many different cultivars are widely available, having been bred for different sizes and stem colors (typically red, yellow, and coral).

Red twig dogwood grows in full sun to part shade, though it prefers full sun. It is a suckering shrub, meaning that it can grow and spread vigorously by underground stems. In this way Red twig dogwood can form a colony which may help mitigate erosion. If the spread is undesirable, roots can be pruned with a sharp spade. The shrub is highly adaptable to a range of conditions, including wet soils, clay soils and soils with high pH. It can tolerate occasional flooding and occasional drought once established.

Red twig dogwood blooms in the spring with clusters of white flowers, followed by white berries that persist through fall and are eaten by songbirds and other wildlife. It is a larval host for certain butterflies and helps support both bees and birds. Red twig dogwood is typically grown for its ornamental value and its bright red stems which are exceptional in the fall and winter landscape. Color is best on stems between 1 and 3 years old. To rejuvenate the shrub and maintain color, remove a few of the oldest (thickest) stems each spring.

References:

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/cornus-sericea/>

<https://mortonarb.org/red-osier-dogwood>

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/cornussericea>

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