

# Insert as an Additional Taxa For *Cornus florida*:

## ***Cornus racemosa*** J. de Lamarck

## **Gray Dogwood**

(*Cornus candidissima*, *Cornus foemina* subsp. *racemosa*, *Cornus paniculata*,  
*Svida candidissima*, *Svida femina*, *Svida foemina*, *Thelyerania candidissima*)

- C This species is also known as Panicked Dogwood; *Cornus racemosa* is a 4Nto 6N(7N) tall thicket-forming suckering deciduous shrub; young twigs are reddish in color while older branches and trunks are smooth and gray, creating an interesting winter aspect; the leaves are 2Oto 4Olong elliptic-ovate to elliptic-lanceolate gray-green and acuminate tipped; a red-purple fall color may develop, but it is inconsistent.
- C The masses of 1Oto 2Olong terminal panicles of small creamy white flowers are effective for one to two weeks in late spring; these are followed by ¼Odiameter bluish white drupes in late summer; although the fruit can be ornamental, they do not usually last long enough before being eaten by birds to provide much ornament; the specific epithet refers to the raceme-like panicles.
- C This species has a very large native range in the Eastern U.S., which extends into our region in Oklahoma and Arkansas; plants are usually found in disturbed sites, open meadows, or along banks of water courses; plants are useful in USDA zones 4(3b) to 7(8); they can be used more effectively in zone 8 in eastern portions of their range than in the west; Gray Dogwood tolerates a variety of soils, fertility, moisture and drainage conditions; growth is best in sun to part shade; it will tolerate denser shade, but with reduced flowering, less colorful stems, and a less dense canopy.

## ***Cornus sanguinea*** L.

## **Bloodtwig Dogwood**

- C *Cornus sanguinea* is also known as Common Dogwood, Dogberry or Pegwood; this European species is planted for its red, yellow-orange, to yellow-green stems which add winter interest to cold climate landscapes, however, the twigs seldom live up to the billing of blood red color; like *C. sericea* and *C. racemosa*, this species forms a suckering colony of deciduous shrubs; its growth habit is rather irregular, forming a sort of wildly branching sprawling mound; plants vary from 5Nto 12N(15N) in height.
- C The dull white flowers are mildly effective, being somewhat hidden by the leaves, but their malodorous scent negates their visual value; the purple-black fruit are also not particularly ornamental.
- C In regions where temperatures are conducive to growth, this species is tough and versatile in site adaptation, but it is low on specimen appeal; plants tolerate more soil alkalinity than most *Cornus spp.*; Bloodtwig Dogwoods tend to suffer in the heat of zone 7, but are tolerant of the cold in USDA zone 4.
- C *Cornus alba* L., the Tatarian Dogwood, is a similar Asian species which has cultivars with more vibrant twig coloration than *C. sanguinea*; unfortunately, it is also intolerant of the heat of zones 7 and 8; *Cornus alba* will however tolerate cold winters to USDA zone 3; Hall and Ansiko (2005) provide some excellent evaluations of the twig colors on a number of taxa of *Cornus*.

## ***Cornus sericea*** L.

## **Red-Osier Dogwood**

(*Cornus baileyi*, *Cornus stolonifera*)

- C *Cornus sericea* is also known as American Dogwood, Harts Rouges, or Poison Dogwood; this suckering thicket-forming, 6Nto 9Ntall, woody shrub is planted for its red to yellow twigs; there is a high degree of variation in the color of the twigs; plants are valued primarily for their winter

color against snow or evergreen backgrounds; the flowers are not particularly showy, but some cultivars have been selected for variegated foliage which adds a bit of summer interest; the 2½" to 4½" long leaves are oblong-lanceolate to oblong-ovate.

- C Red-Osier Dogwood is valued for its extreme cold tolerance to USDA zone 2, but it is not heat tolerant and languishes in USDA zone 7; *Cornus sericea* can be used in high elevation sites in extreme West Texas and is actually native to some high elevation sites in New Mexico; Red-Osier Dogwood is sometimes planted with varying degrees of effectiveness in the northern tier of our region — the Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma, and Arkansas; the biggest disease problem for this species in the landscape is a debilitating stem canker.

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