

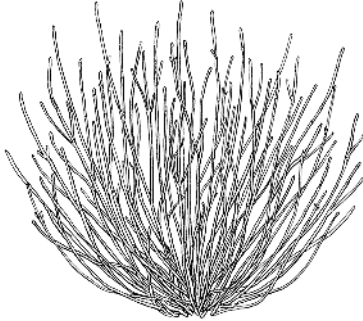
Cornus alba - Tatarian Dogwood (*Cornaceae*)

Cornus alba is a red-stemmed shrub in winter, fast growing and adaptable to wet sites. Tatarian Dogwood cultivars are known for stem color, leaf variegation, or dwarf size.

FEATURES

Form

- medium deciduous shrub
- maturing at 8' tall x 8' wide
- upright rounded growth habit in youth, becoming arching and spreading with age, and sometimes open and straggly
- rapid growth rate



Culture

- full sun to partial shade
- adaptable to many conditions, including wet soils, but prefers moist, well-drained soils
- propagated primarily by rooted stem cuttings
- Dogwood Family, with several disease (crown and stem canker, leaf spot) and pest (borer) problems
- abundant availability, primarily in B&B or container form
- performs best when regularly thinned (or pruned to the ground every other year) to promote compactness, upright growth habit, canopy air circulation, and stout new winter red stems
- mulch if transplanted in autumn

Foliage

- medium to dark green
- opposite, elliptical, and with an acute tip
- main leaf veins parallel to the leaf margins
- autumn color yellowish green to greenish-purple and not showy



Flowers

- miniature cream flowers are arranged into flat-topped inflorescences, to 2" in diameter

- initially flowering in late May and early June, appearing after full foliage development, and sometimes sporadically flowering in Sept.-Oct.
- often sparsely flowering and therefore not especially showy

Fruits

- creamy white, sometimes tinged with blue
- terminal clusters of fruits maturing from June through Aug., attracting birds and not persistent

Twigs

- dark red stems becoming white-streaked to reddish brown with age at the base of the plant
- young twigs are a vibrant red in winter
- leaf scars encircle the stems

Trunk

- not applicable

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Function

- seasonal interest in winter, mass plantings, borders, foundations, embankments, near bodies of water, non-thorny informal hedge

Texture

- medium texture in foliage and when bare
- open to average density in foliage and when bare

Assets

- rapidly-growing shrub
- striking red winter stems
- wet site tolerant

Liabilities

- diseases and pests, leading to leaf spot, stem dieback, or occasional plant death

Habitat

- Zones 2 to 7
- Native to Northeastern Asia

SELECTIONS

Alternates

- deciduous or semi-evergreen shrubs with winter appeal (*Chionanthus retusus*, *Cornus racemosa*, *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta', *Hamamelis x intermedia*, *Myrica pensylvanica*, etc.)
- rapidly growing shrubs (*Cotinus coggygria*, *Forsythia x intermedia*, *Salix purpurea*, *Weigela florida*, etc.)
- wet site tolerant shrubs (*Cornus racemosa*, *Hamamelis vernalis*, *Lindera benzoin*, *Salix purpurea*, etc.)

Cultivars - Variants - Related species

- many times cultivars of *Cornus sericea* (Redosier Dogwood), such as *C. s. f. baileyi*, 'Cardinal', 'Flaviramea', 'Isanti', and 'Kelseyi', are listed under *Cornus alba*, with which it is often confused and interchangeably used - the following true cultivars of *Cornus alba* are noted:
- C. alba* 'Argenteo-marginata' ('Elegantissima') - Silver-Edge Dogwood - green-gray foliage with silver to creamy variegated margins, having graceful branching with age, best placed in partial shade, where it lightens a shadowy area
- C. alba* 'Sibirica' - bright coral red stems and blue fruits