

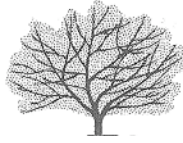
Cornus mas - Corneliancherry Dogwood (*Cornaceae*)

Cornus mas is a broad-rounded large shrub or small tree noted for yellow flowers in late winter and early spring. Corneliancherry Dogwood is also known for vigorous growth, clean foliage, and adaptability to both naturalized as well as urban environments.

FEATURES

Form

-large ornamental shrub or small ornamental tree
-maturing at about 15' tall x 20' wide
-upright rounded to upright spreading growth habit, either multi-trunked or single-trunked and branching low to the ground
medium growth rate



Culture

-full sun to partial shade
-prefers moist, well-drained soils in full sun, but is adaptable to poor soils, dry soils, soils of various pH, heat, and drought
-virtually no disease or pest problems
-abundantly available, usually in B&B form
-single-trunked forms that branch low or multi-stemmed forms are the normal forms available, but shrubs that have been limbed up (either single- or multi-trunked) into tree form are also occasionally available
-best floral contrast is achieved if planted in front of a red brick wall or with an evergreen tree, shrub, or vine backdrop, to enhance the flowering effect of the small yellow inflorescences that emerge before the foliage

Foliage

-medium to dark green, somewhat shiny, about 3" long, opposite, broad elliptic, and acuminate, with major leaf veins parallel to the undulating and curving leaf margins
-autumn color is a mixture of green and reddish-purple foliage, and ornamentally ineffective

Flowers

-small yellow inflorescences are numerous and clustered on the bare stems in Mar., before the leaves emerge; effective for about 3 weeks in late winter and heralding the impending arrival of spring
-very noticeable when in flower esp. when planted in front of a solid-colored background



Fruits

-immature green fruits turn to bright cherry red in July

-0.5" long oblong fruits are arranged sparsely along the stems and are quite attractive when viewed up-close, but are usually hidden by the summer foliage and therefore are rarely noticed by humans, but are quickly eaten by birds and squirrels

Twigs

-the first season's green stem growth changes color by late summer, becoming red-brown to purplish on top of the stem and remaining light green on the bottom of the stem
-0.25" globular floral buds mature in late summer and are prominent, being pendulous and either axillary from the nodes on first-year wood, or on short spur shoots from older wood
-vegetative buds are relatively small and very pointed

Trunk

-light brown, exfoliating to lighter tan-yellow shades underneath, subtly ornamental and seldom noticed because of the low, wide branching

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Function

-large foundation, entranceway, non-thorny barrier, deciduous windbreak, embankment, wildlife attraction, border, naturalizing, or specimen large shrub or small tree, also serving as a late winter or early spring flowering accent

Texture

-medium texture in foliage and when bare
-thick density in foliage and when bare

Assets

-very urban tolerant
-late winter to early spring yellow inflorescences
-larger, yet more dependable, alternative to Forsythia, as its floral buds are not always winter hardy in northern climates

Liabilities

-invasive (from a spreading branch perspective) upon other plants and structures with age
-cannot maintain turf underneath mature specimens due to its dense shade (unless it is considerably limbed up and thinned with age)

Habitat

-Zones 4 to 8
-Native to Central and Southern Europe and Western Asia

SELECTIONS

Alternates

-large shrubs or small trees with early flowering (*Hamamelis x intermedia*, *Amelanchier x grandiflora*, *Cercis canadensis*, *Cornus florida*, etc.)
-medium- to large-sized shrubs for naturalizing (*Calycanthus floridus*, *Cornus racemosa*, *Hydrangea quercifolia*, *Ilex verticillata*, *Lindera benzoin*, *Viburnum prunifolium*, etc.)

Cultivars – Variants – Related species

Cornus mas 'Golden Glory'- a much more upright and formal growth habit, maturing at 25' x 15', with more dense flowering, becoming more popular in the nursery trade, available in single trunk or multi-stemmed forms