

# Red-Osier Dogwood

*Cornus sericea*

Red-osier dogwood is a hardy native shrub whose young stems turn a vibrant red in the winter. It sports clusters of white flowers in May-June, and again in July-August. The shrubs bear white berries from July through September, feeding birds, rodents, and other mammals. Red-osier dogwood is great at stopping shoreline erosion since it can handle very wet soils.

**Height:** 3' to 9'. Stems can grow 2'-3' per year in good years.

## Planting environment:

**Soil:** Will grow in all soil types: sandy, loam, or clay. Can tolerate compacted soils.

**Moisture:** Adaptable, will grow in both wet and drier (but not dry) soils. Tolerates both floods and droughts.

**Sunlight:** Full sun (>6 hours of sun/day) to part shade (4-6 hours/day).

Plant red-osier dogwood 2' apart to control erosion. For wildlife habitat, plant 4' to 6' apart. Dogwoods are sensitive to salt, so avoid areas of road salt runoff.

## Maintenance:

You can prune 1/3 of the old branches away to encourage ornamental stems.

## Top diseases/pests:

1. Sensitive to salt
2. Dogwood anthracnose

