

Red-Osier Dogwood

Cornus sericea

Red-osier dogwood (occasionally spelled Redosier dogwood) is native to Aitkin County. Stems turn vibrant red in winter and are generally resistant to many diseases and pests. Leaves are 2"-5" long and turn red or purple before falling in autumn. Clusters of small white flowers bloom May-June, and again in July-August. Birds, rabbits, and rodents eat the white berries that appear July through September. 1/2" wide berries grow in clusters and many pollinators are attracted to white, early summer blooms. White berries appear in late summer, July through August. Red-osier dogwood is often planted to minimize erosion along streambanks and shorelines, or in a line to form a hedge.



Height: 3' to 9'

Under favorable conditions, stems of red-osier dogwood will grow 2'-3' per year.

Planting environment:

Soil composition: Most; loam, sandy loam, clay loam. Will tolerate both moderately alkaline and acidic soils.

Soil moisture: Adaptable; will grow in wet to moist soils

Sunlight: Very shade intolerant to shade intolerant (>6 hours of sunlight/day)

If planting for erosion, red-osier dogwood should be spaced 2' apart. For wildlife habitat, space seedlings 4' to 6' apart.



Maintenance:

To encourage bright stems for ornamental purposes, prune old branches in late winter/early spring. Younger stems will have brighter colors. Low hanging branches will develop roots, or grow new stems away from the main plant. These may be removed if undesirable.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Sensitive to salt
2. Dogwood anthracnose

