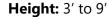
## Red-Osier Dogwood

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. ½" 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.



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





