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Cornus drummondii: Roughleaf Dogwood[1]

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson[2]

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Introduction

This small, spreading, deciduous tree has 1- to 5-inch-long, olive green leaves with paler undersides. During the summer months, roughleaf dogwood produces many off-white, four-petaled, open flowers, and these are followed by many small, round fruits which ripen from August to October. Roughleaf dogwood forms a dense thicket of intertwined branches, making it ideal for use as a hedge, border, or as a cover for wildlife. At least forty species of birds are known to feast upon the fruits.



Figure 1. Middle-aged *Cornus drummondii*: Roughleaf dogwood

General Information

Scientific name: *Cornus drummondii*

Pronunciation: KOR-nus drum-AWN-dee-eye

Common name(s): Roughleaf dogwood

Family: *Cornaceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 4A through 9B (Fig. 2)

Origin: native to North America

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Uses: deck or patio; container or planter; specimen; tree lawn 4–6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; highway median

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

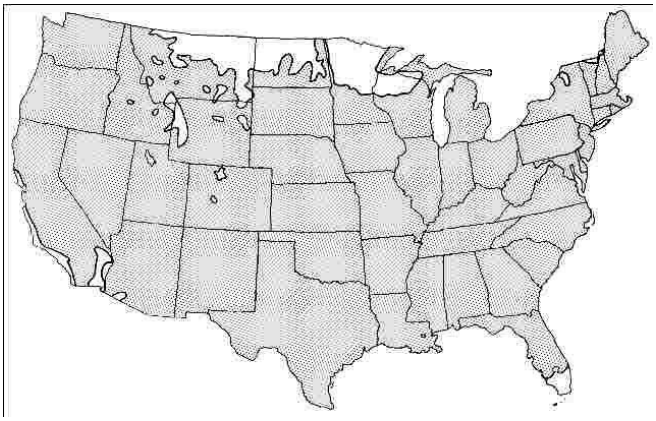


Figure 2. Range

Description

Height: 15 to 25 feet

Spread: 10 to 15 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular

Crown shape: oval, upright/erect

Crown density: dense

Growth rate: fast

Texture: medium

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: entire

Leaf shape: ovate, elliptic (oval)

Leaf venation: pinnate, bowed

Leaf type and persistence: deciduous

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches, 4 to 8 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: purple

Fall characteristic: showy

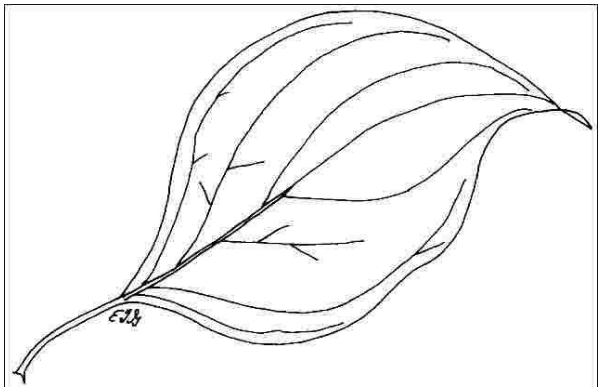


Figure 3. Foliage

Flower

Flower color: white/cream/gray

Flower characteristics: showy

Fruit

Fruit shape: round

Fruit length: less than .5 inch

Fruit covering: fleshy

Fruit color: white/gray

Fruit characteristics: attracts birds; showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: branches don't droop; not showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

Pruning requirement: needed for strong structure

Breakage: resistant

Current year twig color: green, reddish

Current year twig thickness: medium

Wood specific gravity: unknown

Culture

Light requirement: full sun, partial sun, or partial shade

Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; well-drained

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: low

Other

Roots: not a problem

Winter interest: no

Outstanding tree: no

Ozone sensitivity: unknown

Verticillium wilt susceptibility: resistant

Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

Use and Management

Roughleaf dogwood should be grown in full sun on well-drained soils. A partially shaded spot at the edge of the woods is also a suitable location.

[1] This document is ENH343, one of a series of the UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture. Original publication date November 1993. Reviewed May 2014. Visit the Ask IFAS website at https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu for the currently supported version of this publication. © UF/IFAS. This publication is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 *To learn more about creating and maintaining attractive landscapes that protect Florida's water and natural resources, visit ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/.*

[2] Edward F. Gilman, professor emeritus, UF/IFAS Department of Environmental Horticulture; Dennis G. Watson, former associate professor, UF/IFAS Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Gainesville, FL 32611.

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