

Cornus drummondii: Roughleaf Dogwood¹

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Introduction

This small, spreading, deciduous tree has one to five-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.

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

Description

Height: 15 to 25 feet

Spread: 10 to 15 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular

Crown shape: oval, upright/erect

Crown density: dense



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

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

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Figure 2. Range

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

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

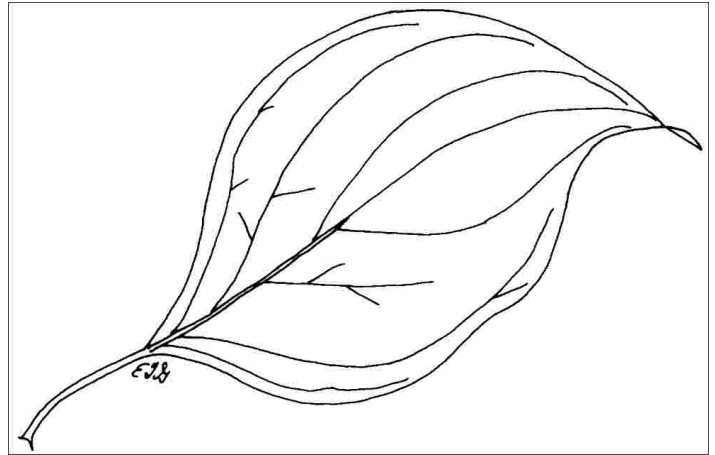


Figure 3. Foliage

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.