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Cornus amomum


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Common Name: do

Type: Deciduous sh

Family: Cornaceae

Native Range: Eastern North America

Zone: 5 to 8

Height: 6.00 to 12.00 feet

Spread: 6.00 to 12.00 feet

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Description: Yellowish white

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium to wet

Maintenance: Medium

Suggested Use: Hedge, Rain Garden

Flower: Showy

Attracts: Birds

Fruit: Showy

Tolerate: Deer, Erosion, Wet Soil, Black Walnut

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Culture

Grow in average, medium to wet, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Prefers moist, organically rich, slightly acidic soils in part shade. Tolerates close to full shade. Benefits from a 2-4" mulch which will help keep roots cool and moist in summer. Branches that touch the ground may root at the nodes. When left alone, this shrub may spread to form thickets.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Cornus amomum, commonly called silky dogwood, is a medium-sized deciduous shrub that is typically found in moist lowland areas, swamp borders, floodplains, shrub wetlands, and along streams and ponds in Eastern North America (New Foundland to Ontario south to Missouri, Mississippi and Florida). Twigs and leaf undersides have silky hairs, hence the common name. This dogwood typically grows to 6-12' tall with an open-rounded form. Tiny yellowish-white flowers (showy petal-like white bracts are absent) in flat-topped clusters (cymes to 2.5" across) bloom in late spring to early summer. Flowers give way to attractive berry-like drupes that change from white to blue as they ripen in late summer (August). Birds are attracted to the fruit. Oval to elliptic, medium green leaves (2-5" long) have conspicuous veins. Attractive fall color is usually absent. Twigs are purplish brown in spring, and have a distinctive brown pith. Genus name comes from the Latin word for horn (reference to hard wood). This shrub is also commonly called swamp dogwood in reference to habitat and *kinnkinnik* (tobacco) in reference to a prior use of shrub bark by Native Americans as tobacco.

Genus name comes from the Latin word *cornu* meaning horn in probable reference to the strength and density of the wood. *Cornus* is also the Latin name for cornelian cherry.

Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. Plants are susceptible to scale. Additional insect pests include borers and leaf miner. Infrequent disease problems include leaf spot, crown canker, blights, root rot and powdery mildew.

Uses

Good shrub for moist to wet areas of the landscape. Not overly ornamental. Somewhat wild and unkempt for placement in prominent areas. Good selection for moist woodlands, naturalized areas, along steams/ponds or for erosion control.



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