



## Gardening Help

[Plant Finder](#)  
[Lawn, Landscape & Garden Design](#)  
[Edible Gardening](#)  
[Advice, Tips & Resources](#)  
[Plants of Merit](#)  
[Sustainable Gardening](#)  
[Gardening Education & Classes](#)  
[Visit the Center for Home Gardening](#)  
[Gardening Help Site Map](#)

Gardening Help Search



Join our Horticulture Staff

Determine Your Growing Zone

Plant Finder

## Cornus racemosa

[Back to Previous Page](#)



[More Images](#)

Species Native to Missouri

Common Name: gray dogwood 

Type: Deciduous shrub

Family: Cornaceae

Native Range: Eastern North America

Zone: 4 to 8

Height: 10.00 to 15.00 feet

Spread: 10.00 to 15.00 feet

Bloom Time: May to June

Bloom Description: White

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Rain Garden

Flower: Showy

Leaf: Good Fall

Attracts: Birds, Butterflies

Tolerate: Deer, Wet Soil

[Garden locations](#)



### Culture

Easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. Tolerates wide range of soil conditions, including both moist and somewhat dry soils. Tolerant of city air pollution. Will spread to form thickets if root suckers are not removed.

### Noteworthy Characteristics

*Cornus racemosa*, commonly called gray dogwood, is a deciduous shrub which is native to Missouri and typically occurs in moist or rocky ground along streams, ponds, wet meadows, glade and prairie margins, thickets and rocky bluffs. It grows 10-15' tall and features white flowers borne in terminal racemes (hence the species name of *racemosa*) in late spring and grayish-green, elliptic to lance-shaped leaves (2-4" long). Foliage turns an interesting (but not always showy) dusky purplish red in fall. Terminal stems holding the flowers are distinctively red and provide interesting contrast to the clusters of small white berries which form after the flowers have dropped. Red stem color is more easily seen after the fruits are gone, and red color often persists into early winter.

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.

Specific epithet refers to the flowers being produced in racemes.

### Problems

No serious insect or disease problems. The dogwood bud gall occurs on this species but is usually not a significant problem.

### Garden Uses

Excellent when planted in groups and left alone to spread in naturalized areas or native plant gardens. Also effective in shrub borders, along streams or ponds or near buildings

or when planted as a screen. Can be particularly useful because of its ability to grow in poor soils.



[Back to Previous Page](#)

## Thank You!

The Garden wouldn't be the Garden without our Members, Donors and Volunteers.

[Support the Garden.](#) ▶

**Become a Member!**  
Members get more.

Sign up for our e-newsletter

## Info for

Members  
Visitors  
Gardeners  
Horticulturists  
Educators  
Researchers

[Submit](#)

## Main Navigation

Visit  
Things To Do  
Gardens &  
Gardening  
Learn & Discover  
Sustainability &  
Conservation  
Plant Science  
About

## Quick Links

Support the  
Garden  
Members  
Shop  
Volunteer  
Jobs  
Media  
Contact



Missouri Botanical Garden  
4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63110  
(314) 577-5100 [hours and admission](#)

Butterfly House  
Faust Park, 15193 Olive Blvd.  
Chesterfield, MO 63017  
(636) 530-0076 [hours and admission](#)

Shaw Nature Reserve  
Hwy. 100 & I-44 Gray Summit, MO 63039  
(636) 451-3512 [hours and admission](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Conditions](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Affiliations](#) | [Site Map](#)

