



Gray Dogwood-- Cornus racemosa

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Cornus racemosa*, from the Latin word *cornu* meaning horn probably referring to the density and hardness of wood. The flowers are produced in racemes.

FLOWER: The showy white flowers are borne in terminal racemes in late spring and develop into white berries in the fall.

LEAVES: Lance-shaped grayish-green leaves are 2-4 inches long and turn dusky purplish red in fall.

BLOOMING PERIOD: May to June.

SIZE: Grows to a height of 10 to 15 feet. Spread is 15 feet.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Typically grows along streams, ponds, wet meadows, glade and prairie margins and bluffs in full sun to part shade. It is able to grow in poor soils. It tolerates deer and wet soil. Left alone it will form thickets from root suckers. Grows best in sunny well drained sites, but is very adaptable.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern North America

SPECIAL FEATURES: Deer-resistant and tolerant of wet soil. It will spread in naturalized areas, can be used in shrub borders, and is useful in poor soils such as clay.

SUGGESTED CARE: Low maintenance

COMPANION PLANTS: Native flowers found in shady moist understory.