



RED OSIER DOGWOOD *Cornus sericea* L.

Red osier dogwood is an abundant colonial shrub usually less than 10 feet tall. On very rare occasions it

may reach the size of a small tree. It occurs throughout the state. It grows on the edges of fields and streams, and in wet areas. It readily invades fields, where it is considered a pest.

The **leaves** are opposite, entire, lance-shaped to elliptic to ovate, 2–4 inches long and whitened underneath, with 5–7 lateral veins.

The **flowers** are in flat-topped clusters. The **fruit** is white and 1/4–1/3 inch in diameter. The **twigs** are bright red to green and minutely hairy. They are used for handles for cemetery baskets. The **buds** lack scales and are densely hairy.



AREA OF OCCURRENCE



Red osier dogwood has opposite leaves and bright red twigs.

