

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Cornus alternifolia

## Pagoda Dogwood



Also called alternate-leaved dogwood. A beautiful small tree, with creamy late-spring flowers and blue fruit on bright red stems in July and August. (Birds love them, and they don't last long.) Branching structure is gracefully horizontal, with the ends of the twigs curving upward (like the edges of a pagoda's roof). The bark on young branches is reddish or olive green. Fall foliage is maroon. To thrive, it needs partial shade and cool, moist, acidic soil.

***Suggested companions:*** leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), or spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*). Beneath it, foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), and lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*).

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium,  
by Merel R. Black

Plant Type: Small Tree  
Size: 15-25' H  
20-35' W

Water Tolerant: No

Habitat:  
Woodland Margin  
Forested Upland

Soil: Average Garden Soil  
Rich Moist  
Clay

Exposure: shade  
filtered

Flower Color:  
White

Plant in: Spring

Groundcover: No

Bloom Time:  
May  
June

Other Attributes:  
Bird attracting  
Wildlife attracting  
Winter interest  
Fall color  
Butterfly attracting