



Red-Osier Dogwood

Cornus sericea

Dogwood Family (*Cornaceae*)

General Description: Thicket-forming shrub or small tree, with vigorous young growth characterized by 3-5 ft vertical twigs. Riparian.

Key Characteristics: Opposite buds and twigs, young winter twigs are often scintillating scarlet. Remnant fruits and flowers appear as flat-topped clusters at the top of stems. Bud is slender and pointed, often flayed into two tips, resembling a crab claw.

Confused With: Vine maple or black twinberry; note significantly different bud shapes and sizes, as well as striking scarlet stem color.

Photo: Joe Bettis