

### \*Gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)



**Stems:** old stems gray, young stems tan to gray, smooth, raised lenticels (corky dots or lines, breathing pores); forms many-stemmed spreading groups.

**Buds:** reddish-brown, small, pointed.

**Twigs:** reddish brown or purplish, small branches gray and hairless and often angled; opposite branching.

**Habitat:** sun, tolerates some shade.

**Uses:** white berries are rich in lipids and are excellent food for migrating birds.

### \*Red dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)



**Stems:** old stems gray, young stems red to purple, smooth, white lenticels; forms many-stemmed tangled thickets.

**Buds:** reddish-brown to gray.

**Twigs:** bright red, purplish or greenish, slender, smooth with often bluish blush; opposite branching.

**Habitat:** sun to shade, tolerates wet to well-drained soils.

**Uses:** excellent food for songbirds; used for erosion control along stream banks.

## Deciduous shrub walk

Enjoy walking the nature trails at Holy Wisdom and the beauty of the woods in winter. Some of these shrubs can be found near the kiosk and along the walking trails on edges of prairies and oak woodlands. Visitors are always welcome for contemplative walks.

## About Holy Wisdom

In 1953, the Benedictine sisters first set down roots on this hill overlooking Lake Mendota. Since then, they have built a strong tradition of caring for the earth, rooted in the Benedictine values of stability and respect for all creation. Some of the sisters' first projects caring for the earth included planting trees, many of which are still present today.

We welcome you to explore the trails, prairies and woodlands at Holy Wisdom Monastery and hope you enjoy this oasis of quiet beauty. To learn more, please visit [HolyWisdomMonastery.org](http://HolyWisdomMonastery.org). Friends are also invited to join volunteer work days and attend environmental education events. If you would like to support our work of caring for the earth, please become a [Friend of Wisdom Prairie](#).

Created by Sylvia Marek & Peter Marshall 2/21



*Holy Wisdom Monastery*

*Weaving prayer, hospitality, justice and  
care for the earth into a shared way of life*

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## Deciduous Shrubs in Winter



Deciduous shrubs lose all of their leaves for part of the year. Learning to identify shrubs in winter without their leaves means paying attention to the **stems, buds and twigs**, including **alternate or opposite branching** patterns. But it's not always easy. This brochure is just an introduction. To learn more, check out books, online resources or take a class or a tour with a naturalist. The shrubs with an asterisk\* can be found at Holy Wisdom.

## Native Wisconsin Shrubs

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| *Gray dogwood | *Elderberry |
| *Red dogwood  | *Nannyberry |
| Hazelnut      | Ninebark    |
| Witch hazel   | Chokeberry  |

### \*Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)



**Stems:** yellowish-brown to gray-brown, smooth with dark warty lenticels; few stems arching outward from the base.

**Buds:** reddish-green or brown, small, conical, stubby buds.

**Twigs:** stout with linear ridges, swollen joints, large leaf scars, small dark warty lenticels; opposite branching.

**Habitat:** sun, tolerates shade, all soils.

**Uses:** black berries contain vitamin A and C, medicinal uses, jam and wine, excellent food for birds.

### \*Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)



**Stems:** old stems dark gray to black, rough, small scales, large stems tall and arching, young stems reddish brown or gray, smooth with scattered lenticels.

**Buds:** gray to brown, pinkish, 2 sizes - flower buds large and vase-like, side buds long and slender.

**Twigs:** rough, side twigs long, slender and flexible; opposite branching.

**Habitat:** sun to shade, dry to wet soils.

**Uses:** berries are good food for birds.

### Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)



**Stems:** smooth, gray-brown, lenticels; clustered stems upright and straight.

**Buds:** brown to gray, small, rounded or blunt and not stalked, multiple bud scales with white hairs on edges.

**Twigs:** brownish, short stiff white or red hairs; stiff catkins visible in winter; alternate branching.

**Habitat:** sun, tolerates partial shade, dry to medium-wet (mesic) soil.

**Uses:** nuts are good wildlife food. The first native shrub to bloom in spring.

### Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)



**Stems:** old stems rough, young stems smooth, light gray-brown, small lenticels.

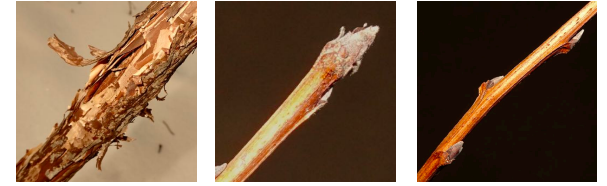
**Buds:** yellowish-brown, oblong, pointed, stalked at base, no bud scales.

**Twigs:** yellowish-brown, hairless, slender; alternate branching.

**Habitat:** blooms in sun, shade tolerant, understory shrub, dry to mesic soils.

**Uses:** extract of leaves, twigs and bark used to soothe skin inflammation. The last native shrub to bloom in late fall.

### Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)



**Stems:** older stems are papery, shreddy, exfoliated, young stems reddish-brown, smooth; stems arch outward from base.

**Buds:** brown, pointed, slender, small, flattened against twigs.

**Twigs:** hairless, slight ridges; tan papery clusters of seed capsules often persist in winter; alternate branching.

**Habitat:** full sun, partial shade, dry to mesic soils.

**Uses:** excellent wildlife cover, songbirds eat the tiny seeds.

### Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)



**Stems:** old stems gray to brown, large diamond shaped lenticels, young stems smooth, gray to reddish-brown.

**Buds:** reddish-purple, long, pointed.

**Twigs:** reddish-brown, smooth, often with silvery spots; alternate branching.

**Habitat:** grows in dry to wet soils, sun or partial shade.

**Uses:** clusters of black fruit, good wildlife food, rich in vitamin C and antioxidants, astringent, high in tannins.