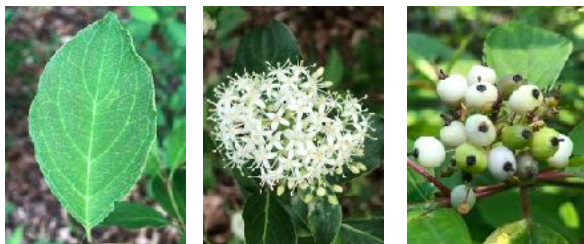


## Gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)



**Form:** up to 10 feet tall, multi-stemmed, colony forming, red fall foliage.

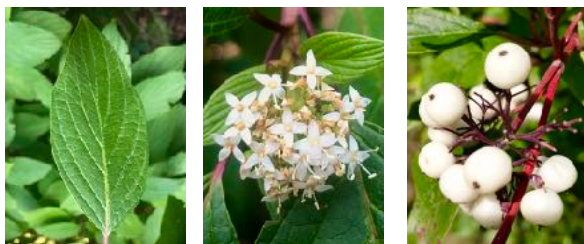
**Habitat:** sun to shade, dry to mesic (medium wet well drained) soil.

**Leaves:** opposite, simple, egg-shaped, smooth edge and surfaces, curved veins.

**Flowers:** June - July, white clusters.

**Fruits:** July - October, clusters of white berries with black center and red stems, 40% fat, valuable food source for birds,

## Red dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)



**Form:** up to 10 feet tall, multi-stemmed, tangled thickets, clumps, forms suckers, purple-red fall foliage.

**Habitat:** sun to shade, wet to mesic soil.

**Leaves:** opposite, simple, elliptical, smooth edge and surfaces, curved veins.

**Flowers:** May - August, white flowers with 4 petals in flat topped clusters.

**Fruits:** August - October, white berries in a clusters, valuable food source for birds.

## Remove Invasive Shrubs

- Identify non-native invasive shrubs
- Cut stems and treat with herbicide
- Stack in piles and burn, if possible
- Monitor often and remove re-sprouts



Glossy Buckthorn      Tartarian Honeysuckle

## Plant Native Shrubs

Planting native shrubs in your yard or natural area will provide food, nesting and roosting sites for native birds, and year-round beauty. Native shrubs are easy to grow and not expensive. They do not require special soil, fertilizer or pesticides.

- Determine best locations for shrubs
- Pay attention to growing conditions
- Purchase shrubs from [Wisconsin Native Plant Nurseries](#)
- Plant in spring or fall
- Dig a simple hole, plant, water, fill, mulch
- Protect from rabbits or deer with fencing in the winter for several years



**QBMB Botanical Brochures**

Created by Sylvia Marek & Peter Marshall 2025 ©

# Native Shrubs of Wisconsin 1



Gray dogwood

Elderberry

Red dogwood

Nannyberry

Hazelnut

Ninebark

Witch hazel

Chokeberry

Shrubs are woody plants, often with multiple stems. Smaller than most trees and widespread across all landscapes. They play a vital role in the health, beauty and species diversity of natural environments. Native shrubs are very attractive for native birds and insects which all evolved together over thousands of years. However, in many areas non-native shrubs, especially buckthorn and honey-suckle, dominate the shrub niche, shading, drying and exuding toxic chemicals into the soil. This decreases the diversity and health of native plant communities.

### Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)



**Form:** up to 10 feet tall, colony forming.

**Habitat:** sun to partial shade, dry to mesic, along streams and open woods.

**Leaves:** opposite, compound with 5-11 leaflets, sharply toothed edge.

**Flowers:** June - July, white, aromatic.

**Fruits:** August - October, small black fruits on flat topped clusters, flowers and ripe fruits edible.

### Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)



**Form:** up to 25 feet tall, arching stems, spreading colonies, high wildlife value.

**Habitat:** full to partial sun, dry to wet.

**Leaves:** opposite, simple, toothed edge, smooth, winged leaf stalk, purple in fall.

**Flowers:** May - June, white, 3-4 inch wide clusters of small flowers with 5 petals.

**Fruits:** August - September, drooping clusters, green to yellow pink to dark blue.

### Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)



**Form:** up to 10 feet tall, small to large shrub, multi-stem, hairy twigs and leaves.

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

**Leaves:** alternate, simple, heart shaped, double toothed edges, hairy stalk.

**Flowers:** March - April, small red female flower and brown male catkin.

**Fruits:** July - September, green nut husk, eaten by squirrels and mice. edible nut.

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



**Form:** up to 20 ft tall, shrub to small tree, crooked branches, old branches gnarled.

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

**Leaves:** alternate, simple, wavy edge.

**Flowers:** September - November, yellow, occurring with fruits, persists into winter.

**Fruits:** September - October, green to brown 2-part capsule, splits apart in fall, explosively ejecting seeds up to 30 feet.

### Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)



**Form:** up to 8 feet tall, rounded, multiple arching stems, peeling reddish bark.

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

**Leaves:** alternate, palmate, 3-5 lobes, rounded teeth, hairless, yellow in fall.

**Flowers:** May - June, white-pink flowers in wide umbrella-like clusters

**Fruits:** September - February, small, dry brown bladders in compound seed head.

### Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)



**Form:** up to 10 feet tall, vase-like shape, clumping, produces shoots and thickets.

**Habitat:** full to partial sun, dry to wet.

**Leaves:** alternate, simple, reddish stem, bright green, 2-3 inches long, toothed edge, smooth and shiny above.

**Flowers:** April - May, white flower clumps

**Fruits:** July - October, glossy black, persists in winter, edible but bitter.