

## Gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)



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

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

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

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

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

## Red dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)



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

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

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

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

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

## 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



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# Native Shrubs of Wisconsin 1w



Gray dogwood

Elderberry

Red dogwood

Nannyberry

Hazelnut

Ninebark

Witch hazel

Chokeberry

During the growing season, native shrubs are an important food source for birds and other wildlife. In winter months, deciduous shrubs lose all of their leaves, though some fruits may persist. Learning to identify shrubs in winter, without their leaves, means paying attention to **buds**, **twigs** and **stems**, including **alternate or opposite branching** patterns. But it's not always easy. Though it is especially helpful and interesting to get up close. A magnifying lens helps to see the intricate details in the buds. Imagine how tiny buds becomes beautiful flowers and leaves.

### Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)



**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.

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

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

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

### Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)



**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.

**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.

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

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

### Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)



**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.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

### Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)



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

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

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

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

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

### Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)



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

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

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

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

**Notes:** clusters of black fruit, good wildlife food, rich in vitamin C and antioxidants,