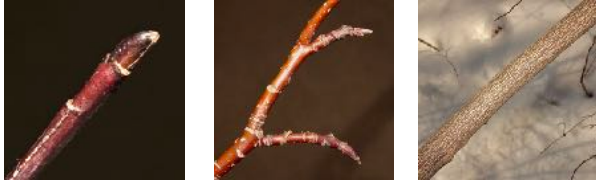


Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)



Buds: 2 bud scales, leaf scars raised.

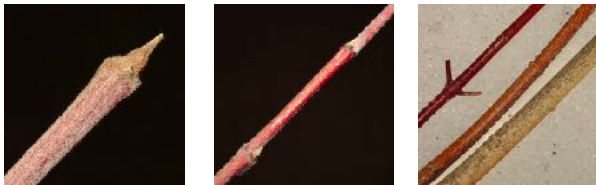
Twigs: reddish-maroon forking twigs; alternate branching.

Stems: old stems dark greenish-gray, young stems reddish-maroon with white dots (lenticels); horizontal branches resemble deer antlers.

Habitat: sun to shade, soils not too dry and not too wet (mesic).

Notes: dark blue fruit, eaten by birds; twigs browsed by deer and rabbits.

Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)



Buds: silky-hairy, dark red to dull purple, small, pointed; opposite branching.

Twigs: bright red to dull purple, silky-hairy; opposite branching.

Stems: older stems greenish-brown to gray, younger reddish-purple with few to many lenticel scars, v-shaped form,

Habitat: sun or shade, wet or moist places. Can spread by suckers.

Notes: bluish-white berrylike fruits eaten by many birds. Can be eaten, but bitter.

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 2w



Pagoda dogwood Arrowwood

Silky dogwood Serviceberry

Red elderberry Smooth sumac

Cranberry viburnum Wild plum

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.

Red elderberry (*Sambucus pubens*)



Buds: large, greenish-purple, leaf scars large and crescent-shaped.

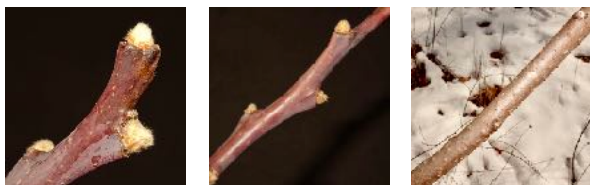
Twigs: stout with warty lenticels, angled, coarse and easily broken; opposite branching.

Stems: old stems brown with dark warty lenticels, young stems pale gray, smooth with raised lenticels.

Habitat: shade to sun.

Notes: red berry-like fruits in clusters, eaten by birds; poisonous for humans.

Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)



Buds: hairy pointed bud, mostly surrounded by u-shaped leaf scar.

Twigs: reddish-brown with white powdery coating, smooth, alternate branching.

Stems: brown-gray, smooth with dark, scaly lenticels; few stout spreading branches; forms clumps, weak wood.

Habitat: dry sandy soil found in fields, edges of woodlands and along roadsides.

Notes: fuzzy red berries in a spike, eaten by birds; berries have tart citrus flavor.

Cranberry viburnum (*V. trilobum*)



Buds: reddish-brown, 2-scaled, joined.

Twigs: hairless; opposite branching.

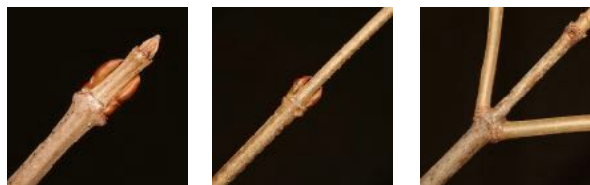
Stems: old stems erect, slightly rough, young stems grayish-brown and smooth.

Habitat: sun to shade, medium moist soil.

Uses: red fruit in clusters, birds usually eat most of the fruit by early winter.

Notes: non-native European *V. opulus* or Guelder-rose is more widespread; red fruits usually persist throughout winter.

Arrowwood viburnum (*V. dentatum*)



Buds: pointed, tan to reddish brown, buds close to the stem.

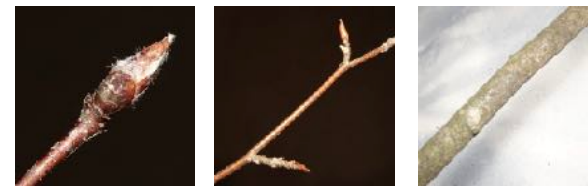
Twigs: tan, slender, ringed nodes, straight shoots; opposite branching.

Stems: old stems gray or reddish-brown, smooth, young stems tan, straight, ridged; upright multi-stem shrub, forms thickets.

Habitat: partial shade to shade, wet to dry soils, tolerates sandy soils.

Notes: bluish-black berrylike fruits, a favorite of birds.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.)



Buds: slender, pointed, pink or reddish, scales with fuzzy tips.

Twigs: reddish-brown, slender, smooth; alternate branching.

Stems: pale steel-gray to light brown with dark lines on smooth trunks; multi-stemmed shrub or small tree.

Habitat: sun to shade, dry to mesic soils, along streams.

Notes: red to purple berry-like fruits, favorite food for songbirds.

Wild plum (*Prunus americana*)



Buds: red-brown, 1/8th inch long, pointed, small leaf scar; alternate branching.

Twigs: light brown, slender, fuzzy or smooth; alternate branching.

Stems: old stems with dark scaly bark, young stems dark, with 1-2 inch thorns.

Habitat: sun to part shade, dry to medium moisture (mesic) soils, slopes and edges.

Notes: reddish fruits, eaten by wildlife; made into jams and sauce; forms thickets, good wildlife habitat.