



Cornus amomum

silky dogwood

Family	Cornaceae
Origin	Native
WIS Code	FACW
CoC	5

DESCRIPTION

Large multi-stemmed shrub (to 5 m tall), branches both erect and bending with reddish-brown bark and silky hairs on young twigs. Pith (spongy tissue inside twigs and stems) of this species is dark brown (not white). Leaves (3 to 10 cm long) are opposite, oval with a pointed tip, smooth on top with pale rusty hairs along veins on lower surface. Each leaf has four to six paired veins extending towards the margins but then curving toward the tip and never reaching leaf edge. As with all *Cornus* species, this shrub has distinctive elastic thread-like fibers, observed when the leaves are torn horizontally across the leaf veins and pulled slowly apart.



Bradley Saul



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Torn leaf with elastic veins

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

May to June, August to September. Flowers are formed at the end of branches on spreading, branched flower heads (4 to 7 cm wide). Stalked flowers are creamy white with four lance to triangular-shaped petals. Fruits are drupes (fleshy solitary fruit with stony interior), green then ripening to dark blue.



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HABITAT

Swamps, stream banks, floodplain forests, and wet meadows.

SIMILAR SPECIES

See *Cephalanthus occidentalis* page for differences between these two species.



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