



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

Alternate Leaf Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) 2+0

Type

Deciduous shrub

Size and Shape

Very small trees or large shrubs, with a **height of 4-6 m.** and a **diameter of 5-10 cm.** The **crown can spread up to 2 m. of diameter.** This shrub does not have any planting restrictions regarding utility wires.

Crown formed of several spreading-horizontal tiers, resulting in a flat, layered appearance. Dark blue to bluish-black, berry-like drupes, about 6 mm across, on red stalk.

Edible Specie?

No

Distribution and Habitat

Common in Ontario, up to Lake Superior and North Bay. Occurs on well-drained deep soils, in the understory of open woodlands, at forest edges, along streams, bordering swamps, and near the bottom of steep slopes.

Wildlife

Stems are grazed by rabbits and deer; fruits are an important source of food for birds and small mammals.

Other Notes

This is the only dogwood with alternate leaves.



Alternate Leaf Dogwood

Light Exposure

Full sun (6 hrs direct light daily),
Partial sun/shade (4-6 hrs light daily)

Soil Preference

Prefers sand and sandy loam.

Drought Conditions

Intolerant

Poor Drainage

Very tolerant

Salt Tolerance

Low tolerance

Disease, Pests and Problems

Not prone to serious diseases, sometimes damaged by dogwood borer and other insect pests.

Rural Uses

Site restoration (roots readily stabilize soils), wildlife food source.

Urban Uses

Aesthetic characters due to the flowering and its stepped shape.