

## PLANTING GUIDE

*Cornus drummondii* Meyer

**Common Name:**  
roughleaf dogwood

### Accessions Numbers/Releases:

9055594 – Corinth Germplasm (Lincoln County, Missouri)

9055650 – Tazewell Germplasm (Tazewell County, Iowa)

9055667 – Jefferson Germplasm (Jefferson County, Illinois)

9055632 – Nicholson Germplasm (Geary County, Kansas)

### Description:

Roughleaf dogwood is a small tree (5-6 m tall) with a very general distribution throughout the states of Missouri, Illinois and Southern Iowa. It is probably found in every county in Missouri. The leaves are opposite, borne simply; very rough above, wooly beneath. Flowers are small and white in color; unlike the flowering dogwood, the flowers of this species have no large petal-like bracts. Fruits are white, berry-like drupe; globular 6-7 mm in diameter, with minute, tightly appressed hairs and milky flesh. Seeds greenish-white or tan, globular, finely ridged. Twigs are slender, brown or reddish-gray, often red when young, slender, flexible, finely hairy. End bud, reddish-gray, narrow, 4-5 mm long, hairy; leaf scars narrow, crescent-shape with ends and center widened; pith white and large. The bark is gray-brown, thin, scaly with short plates or long, flat strips. Wood is hard and white. Trees rarely become large enough to attain a definite pattern. Roughleaf dogwood is predominantly cross-pollinated with some self-pollination. *Cornus* comes from the Latin word *cornu*, 'horn'; *drummondii* is in honor of Thomas Drummond, Scottish botanist, 1780-1835.



### Purpose:

Roughleaf dogwood is an excellent species for use in multi-row field or farmstead windbreaks, wildlife food and cover plantings, landscape and beautification, and dense screen or border planting in recreational development areas.

### Source:

Seed collections were obtained from native stands of roughleaf dogwood plants in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Kansas. Selections were made based on disease resistance, heavy fruit production, form, and rate of growth.

**Site Preparation:**

Prepare site by plowing and disking if equipment can be used. Minimum soil preparation should consist of scalping sod off or spot spraying an area at least two feet square.

**Date of Planting:**

Early spring, as soon as possible after plants have been received.

**Planting Method:**

Plants may be planted by hand or with a tree planter. Soaking roots in water an hour or so just prior to planting usually increases survival. If planted in rows where equipment can be used, allow enough room to mow or cultivate for weed control.

**Management:**

Weed control is necessary for good establishment and uniform growth. Control weeds the first years by cultivation if equipment can be used. Selective approved herbicides provide good weed control after establishment year; follow the instruction on the label. Protect from 2,4-D type sprays, fire, grazing and trampling by livestock. Plastic netting, irritants or similar protective devices should be used to prevent deer and rodent damage the first five years.

**References:**

Flora of Missouri; p. I 152; Steyermark, J. A.; Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, 1968.

A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs; p. 77.78; Peterson, R. T. and McKenny, M. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass., 1968.

Trees of Missouri; p. 109; Settergren, C. and McDermott, R. E., University of Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, Columbia, Missouri, 1968.

Gray's Manual of Botany; p. 1107; Fernald, M. L.; American Book Company; Eighth Edition; Harvard University, 1950.

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