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Cornus racemosa

[Synonyms : *Cornus candidissima*, *Cornus comosa*, *Cornus foemina*, *Cornus foemina* subsp. *racemosa*, *Cornus gracilis*, *Cornus oblongata*, *Cornus paniculata*, *Swida racemosa*]

GREY DOGWOOD is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to northern North America it has small white flowers and leaves that turn reddish-purple in Autumn.

It is also known as Blue-fruited dogwood, Dogwood, Gray dogwood, Panicked cornel, Panicked dogwood, Stiff cornel, Stiff cornel dogwood, Stiff dogwood, Swamp dogwood, and White dogwood.

Warning – the fruit are poisonous.

Racemosa is derived from Latin *racemus* (cluster) meaning 'with a spike of stalked flowers up the stem'.

Some of the Chippewa North American Indians smoked the bark as a tobacco and members of the Meskwaki tribe also smoked it during ceremonial rituals.

From records it would appear that grey dogwood had medicinal value for one or two Indian tribes. The Meskwaki used it to treat headaches, toothache and tuberculosis. They and some of the Chippewa also seem to have found it valuable for easing diarrhoea in their children. The Chippewa used it for treating piles too, while the Iroquois tribe applied it to cuts and used it in cures for some venereal diseases.

Today it is cultivated both as an ornamental plant and as hedging.

Birds enjoy the red-stalked white fruit.