

Cornaceae (Dogwood Family) Key
Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador
 © *Flora of Newfoundland and Labrador* (2019)

- 1a. Plants woody, shrubs to 2–8 m tall; flowers arranged in flat-topped, domed, or rounded inflorescences (compound cymes); fruit an open cluster of spherical drupes. **2**
- 1b. Plants herbaceous, to 20 cm tall; spreading by slightly woody rhizomes; flowers arranged in a dense head-like cymes (to 2–3.5 cm across), subtended by 4 large white petaloid bracts (often mistaken for petals), each up to 2.5 cm long; fruit a small cluster of ovoid red berry-like drupes. **4**
 - 2a. Leaves and branches alternate, leaves often tightly clustered near the end of each branch; fruit dark bluish-black, on bright red pedicels.
 ***Cornus alternifolia*** (alternateleaf dogwood)
 - 2b. Leaves and branching opposite; fruit white or pale green to light blue; pedicels dark purple or pale red. **3**
- 3a. Low to tall shrubs (1–3 m), stems bright to dark red; leaves narrowly elliptic to elliptic (5–15 cm long by 2.6–9 cm wide), glabrous above and finely pubescent beneath; flowers in flat-topped cymes; drupes white, pedicels dark purple; plants of wet habitats, such as stream margins and rich wetter forest types. ***Cornus sericea*** (red-osier dogwood)
- 3b. Tall shrubs (to 3 m), stems green to reddish and mottled with purple blotches; leaves broadly elliptic to nearly orbicular (7–15 cm long by 5–12 cm wide), the upper surface roughened by numerous short stiff hairs, lower surface softly pubescent; flowers in somewhat flat to rounded cymes; drupes light green, pale blue, or sky blue, pedicels pale red; cultivated, but recently observed as an escape on the Avalon Peninsula.
 ***Cornus rugosa*** (roundleaf dogwood)
- 4a. Corolla creamy white; floral bracts bright white, ovate, to 0.7–2.5 cm long by 0.5–1.8 cm wide; leaves 4–6, in closely spaced pairs that appear whorled; blades elliptic to broadly elliptic, the larger one 2–9 cm long, leaf apices acute to acuminate; plants primarily of forested habitats, but also found in tuckamoor, shrubby barrens, and on dry bog hummocks. ***Cornus canadensis*** (bunchberry)
- 4b. Corolla lavender to dark purplish-black; floral bracts yellowish-green to white, broadly ovate, 0.5–1.2 cm long; leaves in 3–6 widely spaced opposite pairs; blades elliptic to ovate, 1.5–5 cm long; plants of coastal barrens. **5**
- 5a. Corolla dark purplish-black; leaves in 3–6 opposite pairs, blades narrowly elliptic to elliptic, apex acute to obtuse; drupes red, short-ellipsoid.
 ***Cornus suecica*** (Swedish bunchberry)

- 5b. Corolla lavender to purple, edged in white; leaves in 3 opposite pairs; leaf traits and plant size intermediate between the 2 parent species (*Cornus canadensis* and *C. suecica*), and found in proximity to both species. *Cornus ×lepagei* (Lepage's hybrid bunchberry)

***Cornus* (Cornaceae) Comparison Charts**

<i>Cornus</i> Chart 1 (of 2): Shrubs 1–8 m tall			
<i>Cornus</i> species:	<i>C. alternifolia</i>	<i>C. sericea</i>	<i>C. rugosa</i>
	alternateleaf dogwood	red-osier dogwood	roundleaf dogwood
Twigs	twigs green to purplish-red; buds with 2–3 imbricate bud scales	twigs bright red to dark red; buds with 2 valvate naked scales	twigs green to light red, mottled with purple; buds with
Leaves	alternate ; elliptic-ovate or obovate; often tightly clustered near branch ends ; ± glabrous above, glaucous and slightly pubescent beneath; petioles to 6 cm long	opposite ; lanceolate, elliptic, to ovate; not rough above, paler and slightly pubescent beneath; petioles to 2.5 cm long	opposite , ovate to orbicular; upper surface rough with short appressed hairs ; lower surface densely woolly (lanate); petioles 12–18 cm long
Secondary Veins	5–6 pairs of arcuate veins	5–7 pairs of arcuate veins	7–9 pairs of arcuate veins
Inflorescence (compound cymes)	flat-topped clusters ; flowers small, corolla white	flat-topped to domed clusters ; flowers small, corolla white	rounded clusters ; flowers small, corolla small
Fruit	dark bluish-black drupes; bright red pedicels	white drupes; dark purple pedicels	greenish to light blue drupes; pale red pedicels

Cornus Chart 2 (of 2): Forbs 1–2 dm tall

Cornus species:	<i>C. canadensis</i>	<i>C. ×lepagei</i> (<i>C. canadensis</i> × <i>C. suecica</i>)	<i>C. suecica</i>
	bunchberry	Lepage's hybrid bunchberry	Swedish bunchberry
Leaves	2–3 pairs of opposite ovate leaves near the shoot apex, appearing as a single whorl; blades 2–9 cm long	3 pairs of opposite ovate leaves separated by internodes; 4 leaves in upper whorl, 2 leaves in lower whorls	3–6 pairs of opposite ovate leaves separated by noticeable internodes; blades 2–4 cm long
Secondary Veins	7–9 arcuate veins	5–7 arcuate veins	3–5 arcuate veins
Inflorescence	a pseudanthium, with 4 white petaloid bracts subtending a capitate cluster of small flowers		
Flowers	corolla creamy white	corolla lavender to purple, often with whitish margins	corolla dark purple to blackish
Fruit	ovoid red drupes; 5–8 mm in diam.	red drupes, intermediate in size and shape between the 2 parent species	spherical to broad-ellipsoid red drupes, 5 mm in diam.