



## Dogwood - Red Osier (*cornus sericea*) & Common Dogwood (*cornus sanguinea*)



The best time to spot Dogwood is in winter or spring when the red twigs stand out against the bare trees. It is also striking in autumn when the leaves turn red and purple.

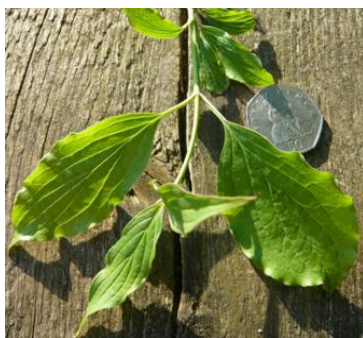
There are two types of Dogwood in Selsdon Wood - the Red Osier and the more widespread Common Dogwood.

There is a dramatic hedge of Red Osier Dogwood along the lower part of the western edge of Great Hill (see below 23/3/12). The red twigs are clearly noticeable through out the winter and spring when surrounding trees are bare. This is the only known location of this shrub in Selsdon Wood. This species is indigenous to North America but not to Britain and was probably deliberately introduced.

The leaves are opposite and oblong in shape 5-12cm long with a reddish tinge around the edges and the flowers are small and white, borne in May/June in clusters 3-6cm in diameter (top right 24/5/12). The fruit is a white berry (centre right 13/9/12). The flowers have an unpleasant smell that attracts flies and small beetles.



Our native Dogwood is a less showy plant that is common throughout all the hedgerows in Selsdon Wood. It can be found, for example, across the field from the Red Osier in the eastern hedge of Great Hill. The twigs have a reddish tinge but are not as striking as the colour of the Red Osier (see overleaf 25/3/12). The leaves are plain green (below left 25/5/12) and although the leaves of both species have rich autumn colour, those of the Red Osier are again the more striking. The flowers are similar to those of the Red Osier (below centre 1/6/12). However, the berries of the Common Dogwood are very different from those of the Red Osier as they are black (below right 13/9/03).



Take a walk in autumn or winter through all the fields and look at the hedgerows. In the Great Field explore both sides and identify the Common Dogwood and the Red Osier. Can you spot any berries?

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