

January 2, 2019



Red and Yellow Twig Dogwood  
Summer Brasuel  
UCCE Master Gardener Program of El Dorado County

Red and yellow dogwoods? Who knew? These two shrubs are stunners in the landscape. They have year-round interest. Spring through fall their leaves are beautiful, they have small flowers, which develop into berries. Then in winter, their striking bark pops in the landscape.

Both shrubs grow well in El Dorado County in USDA plant hardiness zones 3-7. They grow 6-8 feet tall, and 6-8 feet wide. Like all dogwoods, these shrubs like moisture. If you have a pond or some wetlands on your property these are a good choice. That said, we have some growing in the Sherwood Demonstration Garden in Placerville, and they are doing well with moderate water.

The red twig dogwood, *Cornus Alba* 'Elegantissima,' is a broadleaf, deciduous, flowering shrub. It provides year-round interest with variegated leaves, small white flower clusters, and bright red bark. The flowers are succeeded by tiny white berries. You will be glad these shrubs are deciduous because their red bark is stunning in winter. Red twig dogwoods will tolerate partial shade, but their signature red bark will be brightest if they are planted in full sun.

Another type of red dogwood is Redosier dogwood, *Cornus serica* or *Cornus stolonifera*. This dogwood is native to North America.

Read more about the different cultivars and care of the red twig dogwoods:

<https://www.thespruce.com/red-twig-dogwood-shrubs-2132727>

[https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs\\_ext\\_vt\\_edu/3010/3010-1497/3010-1497.pdf](https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/3010/3010-1497/3010-1497.pdf)

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Yellow twig dogwood, *Cornus stolonifera* 'Flaviramea,' is also a deciduous, flowering shrub. It, too has clusters of small flowers, succeeded by small berries. In winter the bright yellow bark brings color to the landscape. The yellow twig is also a Redosier dogwood. Read more about this plant here: <https://www.thespruce.com/yellow-twig-dogwood-shrubs-2132735>

Planted in combination, these two shrubs bring stunning color to a winter landscape. If planted in snow country the brilliantly colored stems sticking out of the snow is a sight to behold. Plant them where you can see them!

The Redosier, specifically, red and yellow twig dogwoods spread by suckering. They are both excellent choices for erosion control. That said, they can easily be controlled with annual pruning and care for use in a tamer landscape as most of us would have near our homes.

A display of the variegated red twig (*Cornus Alba* 'Elegantissima') dogwood and yellow twig dogwood can be seen in the [Sherwood Demonstration Garden](#). They are planted along one side of the Marsh. There is also a red twig dogwood planted in the Shade Garden. Visit on 2nd Saturday's Open Garden Day to see the stunning colors of these two shrubs. In winter we are open on the second Saturday of each month, November through March. During spring and summer we are open every week, Friday and Saturday.

On February 23rd we will be hosting a Sustainable Organic Gardening Workshop, at the Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park, 95682. ***Sustainable Organic Gardening*** will help you develop a backyard food source that's cost-effective, improves your family's nutrition and food security, and offers a healthy hobby for the whole family. Whether you have a patio container garden or a quarter acre to farm, you can grow an abundance of healthy, delicious food through sustainable organic gardening practices. There is a fee for this one-day workshop, lunch included, \$25.00. To learn more and to pre-register, please visit our website <http://ucanr.edu/sustainable-organic-gardening> or call (530)-621-5528.

UCCE Master Gardener Program of El Dorado County are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling [\(530\) 621-5512](tel:5306215512). Walk-ins are welcome at our office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. Visit us at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, located at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville, behind Folsom Lake College – El Dorado Center. The garden is open on the second Saturday of each month, 9:00 to 11 a.m., November 2018 through April 2019.

For more information about our public education classes and activities, go to our UCCE Master Gardener Program of El Dorado County website at <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu>. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at [http://ucanr.edu/master-gardener e-news](http://ucanr.edu/master-gardener-e-news). You can also find us on Facebook.