

**USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**NOTICE OF RELEASE**  
**OF**  
**JEFFERSON GERMPLASM ROUGHLEAF DOGWOOD**  
***CORNUS DRUMMONDII***

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCR), the Elsberry Plant Materials Center at Elsberry, Missouri announces the release of Jefferson Germplasm roughleaf dogwood, *Cornus drummondii*, Meyer, (Iowa Source) as "SELECT CLASS" for wildlife food and cover and windbreaks.

Jefferson Germplasm has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9055650.

**Origin:**

Jefferson County, Iowa.

**Ecotype Description:**

Roughleaf dogwood is a small native 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, woolly beneath. Flowers 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. diameter, with minute, tightly appressed hairs and milky flesh. Seeds greenish-white or tan, often red when young, 4-5 mm long, hairy; leaf scars narrow, crescent-shape with ends and center widened; pitch 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* is from the Latin word cornu, "horn"; *drummondii* is in honor of Thomas Drummond, Scottish Botanist, 1780-1835.

**Development:**

Jefferson Germplasm was selected out of an assembly of 55 collections of roughleaf dogwood planted on the Plant Materials Center in April 1990. After seven years of comparative evaluations, this accession was selected based on the following characteristics: fruit production, insect and disease resistance, form and seedling vigor. This selection has been tested on various soil types throughout the state of Iowa. Plant performance has ranged from good to excellent. This dogwood is able to survive drier and more exposed soil conditions than any other species in Iowa and is often found around limestone glades and rocky exposed outcrops.

**Seed Production:**

Jefferson Germplasm was the best fruit producer of all the accessions included in this assembly from the state of Iowa. Average yield of fruit per individual tree ranges from

5-8 bulk pounds. It takes four to five years for new transplants to produce quantities of fruits.

This selection has approximately 15,000 clean seeds per pound. Average seed weight is approximately 3.70 grams per 100 seeds.

**Site Collection:**

This collection was made from a native stand located in Round Prairie Park, near Fairfield, Iowa in Jefferson County: Range 8W, Township 71N (Round Prairie), Section 32. Soil series is a Lindley Loam type.

**Climate:**

The average annual temperature is 51.1 degrees Fahrenheit. July is the warmest month with an average high of 87.9 degrees and low of 65.2 degrees. January is the coldest month with an average high of 30.8 degrees and low of 12.1 degrees. The average annual precipitation for this region is 34.8 inches with much of this coming during the growing season. The average frost-free growing period runs from April 22 to October 13.

**Availability of Plants:**

Breeders material is being produced by the Plant Materials Center, Elsberry, Missouri.

**Release Approved By:**

Roger A. Hansen, Missouri State Conservationist  
Chairman, PM Advisory Committee, NRCS 10-2-97

William J. Gradle, Illinois State Conservationist 10-29-97

Leroy Brown, Iowa State Conservationist 10-21-97

**References:**

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A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs; p. 77, 78; Peterson, R. T. and McKenny, M. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass., 1968.

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