

Notice of Release of
Ruby Redosier Dogwood (Cornus stolonifera Michx.)
For Conservation Plantings

By

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Ecological Sciences Division

Washington, DC

and

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Albany, New York

The US Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (USDA-SCS) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC) announce the release of Ruby redosier dogwood, (Cornus stolonifera Michx.). Ruby was selected at the Soil Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, Big Flats, New York.

Ruby is a clone of redstem dogwood that was collected from a single native plant in Painted Post, Steuben County, New York in 1975. The original collection was designated NY-5214, and evaluated alongside 42 other redstem dogwood accessions from throughout the northeast. When NY-5214 was selected for advanced evaluation it was assigned the number PI-443229. A foundation cutting block was planted with rooted cuttings in 1983; this block serves as the source for the cultivar.

Ruby is a shrub up to 6 feet in height, with outside stems ascending. Where stems contact the ground they initiate roots at the nodes; Ruby was superior to the other collections in the ability to root along the branches. Recent year's stems are bright red. On favorable sites the mature height of 6 feet is achieved in 3 to 4 years. Ruby is typical of the species with white pith, dark green leaves, and white to cream colored fruit.

The principal use for Ruby is in streambank protection. It can be planted as a pure stand or in combination with such species as willows and alders. It will also be useful in biotechnical slope stabilization and fish and wildlife habitat improvement. Branches drooping into the stream provide cover for fish and the shade provided helps keep the water cool. The fruits of dogwood are eaten by grouse, wild turkey,

pheasants, and a variety of songbirds. The plants provide nesting cover for songbirds, escape cover for pheasants and rabbits, and the twigs are browsed by deer and rabbits. Ruby is adapted from Ohio to Maine and south to New Jersey, on poorly drained to well drained soils. When used on streambanks, it should be planted at the waterline on straight channel sections and the inside of curves. It should generally be used on outside banks of curves in combination with riprap.

Foundation cloning stock of Ruby will be maintained by the SCS, Big Flats, Plant Materials Center, Box 360A, RD#1, Rt. 352, Corning, New York 14830. Rooted cuttings are available to commercial and state nurseries for the purpose of establishing cutting blocks. Propagation procedures will be provided to those receiving plants.

(Note: Genus/Species name change to Cornus sericea ssp.).

Approvals for Notice of Release of Ruby Redosier Dogwood

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12/27/88
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Nov. 30, 1988
Date