

Pollinator Partnership Spotlight

Host Plant: Red-Osier Dogwood

By Anthony Colangelo, Pollinator Partnership Communications Coordinator

Today's featured native plant is red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), which is a large flowering shrub native across North America and found in fields, open wetlands, and damp woods. It blooms in May and June, and has clusters of white flowers that are attractive to butterflies and bees.

Red-osier dogwood is the larval host plant for the spring azure butterfly, and the small white berries found on these shrubs are an important food source for many different species of resident and migrating birds in the fall. Red-osier dogwood is also a popular winter shrub as the red branches create a beautiful contrast against the white snow in winter months.



Red-osier dogwood blooming, photo credit Ann McCulloh



Spring Azure butterfly, photo credit Kate Redmond



Red-osier dogwood in winter, photo credit Peter M. Dziuk

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