

{from page 67}

(57)

(Dogwood)

Notes collected beg.

planted '75

June 16/77 - 3rd list #14

blossomed M. Apr. 18/77

f. " 17/77

(L.Z.) Coosaw (Kousa identified <Pt. J.> Medical Center Fri.

April 15/77 rooted in nursery didn't take) Asian:

C. florida

~~weeds? pp 246-7~~ [Japan, Korea var. chinensis has

(see

longer, more showy bracts [Taylor pg 267] Cornus (cornels

over)

See Cheyney v.i. Illust. C. alternifolia = Blue dogwood,

"pigeonberry" 8-15 ft H hardy Ea N.A. May-June

[L.Z. Cheyney, What Tree Cornus florida, Flowering dogwood

broad] leaves oval, opposite, veining deeply dented in leaf

pp 168 surface <parallel turn to> follow edge of leaf; bark, purple-green, bitter

taste, downy; "flwrs" white with yellow center - 3" across

i.e. flower a minute, inconspicuous part of

yellow center, the <4> white "petals" notched at <their> ends

3" across specialized leaves or bracts; fruit -

red oval berry, small clusters on the ends of the twigs

pp 170-171 Cornus alternifolia, lvs same as C. florida

but alternate; flower flat cluster of small, white flwrs;

berries dark blue

* * *

(p 68

(57) (cont. p.2) (Dogwood)

Taylor 267 C. florida "boxwood" max 30 ft H lvs 3-5 in L. flwrs small greenish in midst 4 large showy, white, notched petal-like bracts. Fruit scarlet. Ea. U.S. May-June. Natural state forest canopy, prefers partial shade (can be grown in the open). Var. rubra red (dogwood) or pink-bracted cultivated since 1731. also a ~~form~~ var. weeping branches; another [has] 6-8 large bracts as tho "double-flowered" All have bright scarlet autumn foliage.

Not quite hardy N. of zone 4

C. alba. Tartarian dogwood. 6-10 ft H; twigs bright red, lvs ovalish 3-5 in L, bluish green beneath. Flowers white, clusters numerous 2" W. Fruit whitish-blue. Ea Asia May-June. Hardy everywhere widely cultivated var: argentina{-eo}-marginata white margined leaves; spaethi, yellow edged lvs;

(*) || sibirica coral-red twigs (forced home E. 180 St ca. 1941 from sprigs Bronx Bot. Gardens)

C. Mas. *Cornelian cherry. <v.i Theophrastus> shrub or small tree . . naked twigs crowded w. short-stalked small, head-like clusters of minute yellow flwrs. March-April. Lvs oval or elliptic 3-4" L Fruit edible, acid, scarlet, ripe August. Eurasia, hardy zone 3→S. Withstands smoky air better than most shrubs.

{vertical:}

thus grows in large clumps lvs 3-5" L / flwrs white Small flat topped clusters / max 2½" fruit / bluish / white

C. nuttali. Pacific dogwood taller than C. florida usually 6 white or pinkish bracts fruit red or orange Brit. Col. to S. Cal. but doubtfully hardy above zone 6 in the East C. paniaulata = racemosa. Gray dogwood shrub 6-10 ft H, gray twigs lvs elliptic or narrowly oval 2-4 in L. tapering at tip wedge-shaped base. Flwrs white Ea U.S. hardy zone 2 →S

var . . C. sanguinea. Red dogwood resembles C. alba but black fruit, May-June

flaviramea C. stolonifera. Red osier shrub rarely above 6 ft

yellow / twigs H. spreading underground prostrate stems → <{cont. left margin:}

* * *

p 69

(57) (cont. p 3)

(Dogwood)

Gray pp 1105-1108. Apart from <microscopic> detailed botanical inf . . covers about same matter as Taylor with stress on Canadian species + literary matter noted here. E.g. Cornouiller (Que.) C. canadensis <Illust Woodland p 8> = Dwarf Cornel, Bunchberry, Crackerberry, Pudding Berry, Quatre-Temps (Que) and <+> | 4-/timer

* / P. C. suècica (Swedish) with emphasis on Iceland habitat N of St Lawrence to Alaska, Greenland Sat. Nfd. || L. cornu, horn alluding to <the> hard wood

June C. sanguinea used for skewers by butchers, 18/77 British Skewerwood, Dagwood O.E. = dagger or sharp pointed object [cf U.S.A. South daggone dag-gone-it <as> euphemism — L.Z.] chron crown ↓4.4 5

KPANEIA (fruit KPANEON)

* Theophrastus, Cornelian cherry 1.6.1 core hard + close; 1.8.2 has more knots than ΘHAY-KPANEIA; 3.2.1 fruit sweeter + better ripened than in cultivated form; 3.3.1 tree of mtn. + plain; 3.6.1 slow growing (?); 3.12 1-2 described; 5.4.1 more fruitful than (ΘHAY-KPANEIA 5.6.4 wood very strong (3.4.6 fruit inedible

Mitford M. Mathews <A Dict. of Selected> Americanisms [<LZ> Dogwood winter = cool <cold> weather in May] p 22

(Mathews entry) blackberry winter . . Later . . in <when the blackberries> blossom . . another cold spell . . we call blackberry winter (also dogwood winter snowball . .

- 1 Coo-saw kin-ens sees seas season
- 2 daw-gun<ned> earth night planet cornel
- 3 home forced people(d) ember-eves ember-days
- 4 sanguine horn skewerwood midnight sun
- 5 temperate may/june empery bush bunchberry
- 6 high/forest(ries) subtly flowered notched-bracts red
- 7 white pink impetal fruit blues-white-orange-red-black crown one
- 8 croon eon-spring('s) coldspell dogwood-winter / snowball

f. M June 20/77

Quatre-temps 3 jours de jeûne (w. ?-Sat med. Eng King's subjects

Pencil draft b. Sat June 18/77 ^ Paul: Iceland lvs 9:55 PM <arrives> Sun 6/19

* * *

(57) (cont p 4) (Dogwood) (pg 70)
b. Sat June 18/77
Ink draft Tues June 21/77

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8



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Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Cornus**

Gray, *Gray's Manual of Botany*, **Cornaceae** (Dogwood Family) > **Córnus** (1105-1108)

Everett, *Woodland Flowers*, **Bunchberry; Dwaft Cornel** (8)

Theophrastus, *Enquiry into Plants*, Index: **κράνεια** (cornelian cherry, *Cornus mas*), **θηλυκράνεια**
(cornel, *Cornus sanguinea*)

E. G. Cheyney, *What Tree Is That?*, **Cornus allernifolia**, **Cornus florida** (168-171)

Century Dictionary (CD), **ember-days**, **embering-days**

Mathews, *Dictionary of Americanisms*, **blackberry winter**, **dogwood winter**

Larousse Nouveau Petit, **Quatre-temps**

line 1: **Coo-saw kin-ens sees seas season**
 line 2: **daw-gunned earth night planet *cornel***
 line 3: **home forced people ember-eves ember-days**
 line 4: **sanguine horn skewerwood midnight sun**
 line 5: **temperate mayjune empery *bush bunchberry***
 line 6: **highforest subtly flowered notched-bracts red**
 line 7: **white pink impetal fruit blues-white-red-orange-black**
 line 8: **crown *one-spring coldspell dogwood-winter snowball***

June 18-21/77

for Paul 10 days Iceland

beg. June 18 (returns July 1/77-Fri.)

{PZ had a long-standing musical relationship with Iceland beginning in 1965. From 1977-1983 he conducted a series of seminars which led to the founding of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Iceland in 1985, for which PZ was principal conductor and music director, as well as working with other Icelandic ensembles.}

line 1: **Coo-saw kin-ens sees seas season**

Taylor, **Cornus**. The dogwoods or cornels comprise an important genus of garden shrubs and trees (one an herb) of the family Cornaceae, much grown for their handsome flowers, often brightly colored fruits, and in some species for the winter effect of their colored twigs. All the 40 known species are native in the north temperate zone. Leaves generally opposite, without marginal teeth. Flowers small, with 4 small petals and 4 stamens. In many species these flowers are white and grouped in flat-topped or rounded clusters (cymes); such resemble viburnums, but the latter have 5 stamens and a united corolla. In a few species the flowers are inconspicuous, greenish, and set in the midst of several colored bracts (often mistakenly called petals), as in the flowering dogwood and the bunchberry. One has yellow flowers. Fruit fleshy. (*Cornus* is the old Latin name of the Cornelian cherry.)

C. Kousa. An Asiatic representative of our flowering dogwood, there called kousa. It is a lower tree, has smaller leaves, very similar flowers and bracts, but its pinkish fruits are in a head-like cluster. Japan and Korea. June. Hardy from zone 4 southward. The var. chinensis has longer and more showy bracts.

Coo-saw kin-ens sees seas < *Kousa* + *chinensis*

line 2: **daw-gunned earth night planet *cornel***

See Gray on Old English *dagge* line 4

{See LZ note above on the expression “dag-gone-it”}.

Taylor, **Cornus** line 1.

line 3: **home forced people ember-eves ember-days**

{See LZ’s note above on “forced home.” Forcing means to force flowers, fruit and vegetables out of season through various techniques. LZ’s note refers to when he and Celia lived near the Bronx Zoo, next to the New York Botanical Gardens. See “*It was*” (CF 179-184)}

CD, **ember-days**, *n. pl.* {...} Days in each of the four seasons of the year set apart by the Roman Catholic and other western liturgical churches for prayer and fasting. {In French ember-days = *quatre-temps*, noted by LZ above. LZ also notes above that in Gray, *Cornus canadensis* has the popular name of *Quatre-temps* in Quebec}.

line 4: **sanguine horn skewerwood midnight sun**

Taylor, **Cornus** {see line 1} > **C. sanguinea** {> blood-red}. Red Dogwood. For hort. purposes very similar to *C. alba*, and differing chiefly in having black fruit. Eurasia. May-June.

Gray, **FAM. 130 CORNACEAE** (Dogwood Family) > **1. Córus** L. CORNEL. DOGWOOD. CORNOUILLER (Que.) {...} (Latin name from *cornu*, a horn; alluding to the hardness of the wood, the European *C. sanguinea* having long been used for skewers by butchers, whence *Skewerwood* in English provinces and DAGWOOD from the Old English *dagge*, a dagger or sharp pointed object.) (1105).

{**midnight sun**: presumably refers to PZ in Iceland during mid-summer at the time LZ worked on this poem; LZ notes above that PZ made a night flight to Iceland. Through the 1970s and 80s, PZ became deeply engaged with promoting classical music in Iceland and founded the Icelandic Youth Orchestra.}

line 5: **temperate mayjune empery bush bunchberry**

{Dogwoods flower in May-June, see Taylor lines 1, 4, 6 and 7.}

Taylor, **Cornus** {see line 1} > **C. canadensis**. Bunchberry, also called crackerberry. Scarcely over 6 in. high, and a woody herb. Leaves in a usually basal whorl, ovalish, 1-2½ in. long. Flowers greenish, inconspicuous, set among 4-6 large white and petal-like bracts. Fruit scarlet. Northern N.A. and Asia, and on mountain tops southward. May. A plant for wild garden.

line 6: **highforest subtly flowered notched-bracts red**

Taylor, **Cornus** {see line 1} > **C. florida**. Flowering dogwood, also called boxwood. A showy tree up to 30 ft. Leaves oval, 3-5 in. long. Flowers small, greenish, set in the midst of 4 large, showy, white, notched and petal-like bracts. Fruit scarlet. Eastern U.S. May-June. In its natural state the flowering dogwood is a tree of the under-canopy of the forest. While it can be grown in the open it prefers partially shady sites. There is a very popular red- or pink-bracted var., **rubra**, commonly called the red dogwood, and cult. here since 1731. There is also a form with weeping branches and another with 6-8 large bracts, as though “double-flowered.” All have bright scarlet autumnal foliage. Not quite hardy north of zone 4.

See Taylor line 5.

line 7: **white pink impetal fruit blues-white-red-orange-black**

See Taylor line 6.

Taylor, **Cornus** {see line 1} > **C. alba**. Tartarian dogwood. A showy shrub, 6-10 ft. high, its twigs bright red. Leaves ovalish, 3-5 in. long, bluish-green beneath. Flowers white, the clusters numerous and about 2 in. wide. Fruit whitish-blue. Eastern Asia. May-June.

C. stolonifera. Red osier. A shrub, rarely above 6 ft. high, its red branches erect, but spreading by underground, prostrate stems, thus making large clumps. Leaves ovalish or narrower, 3-5 in. long. Flowers white, small, in flat-topped clusters that are often 2½ in. wide. Fruit bluish-white. May-June. Hardy everywhere.

C. nuttalli. Pacific dogwood. A western representative of the flowering dogwood (*C. florida*), but a much taller tree, and it usually has 6 petal-like white or pinkish bracts, instead of 4. Fruit red or orange. May.

See Taylor line 4.

line 8: **crown one-spring coldspell dogwood-winter snowball**

{See LZ's Theophrastus notes above where he appears to associate *crown* with κράνεια (*kraneia*) meaning *cornel*.}

Mathews, *Dictionary of Americanisms*, dogwood winter, 1907 Amer. Folk-Lore 235 'Don't you know what dogwood winter is?' demanded the man from Hickory, N.C. 'There is always always a spell of it in May, when the dogwood tree is in bloom. For several days there is cold, disagreeable, cloudy weather, and often a touch of frost' (502).

blackberry winter, 1905 Johnson *Highways* 162 Then, later, when the blackberries are in blossom, we have another cold spell what we call the blackberry winter. {...} In addition to *blackberry winter*, dogwood winter, and snowball winter mentioned in preceding issues of *American Speech* (128).