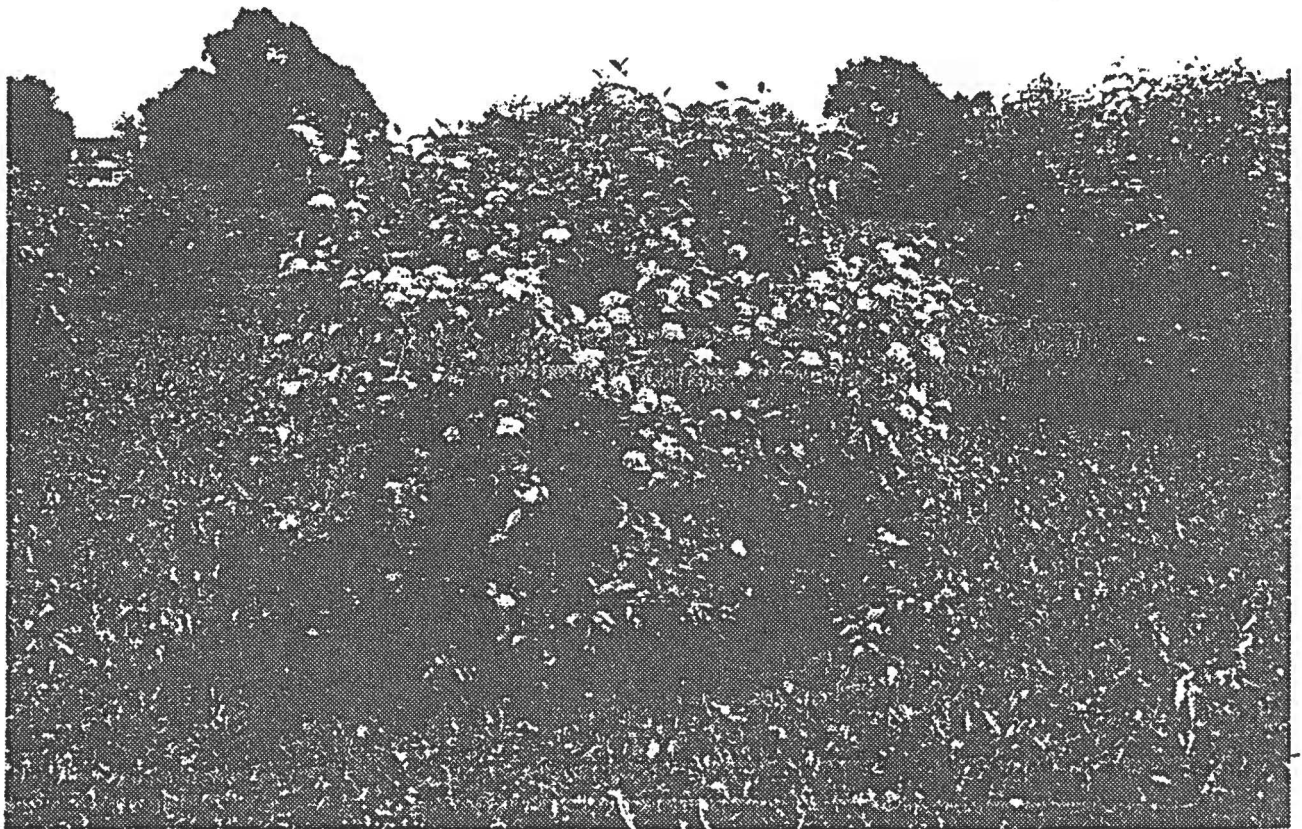


Original  
Signed 10/22/82

JOINT RELEASE  
BY  
THE USDA  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
AND  
THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
OF  
INDIGO SILKY DOGWOOD  
CORNUS AMOMUM Mill



## I. Origin:

A field collection of seed from native silky dogwood was made in 1961. The original site is located in Section 25, T 5 N, R 1 W, Bath Township, Clinton County, Michigan. This is known as the "Green Area" of the Rose Lake Wildlife Research Station. Until the recent assignment of the new PI number, 468117, this accession was identified as Mich-765.

Since the first seed collection was made, 54,755 plants have been produced and distributed by the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, 7472 Stoll Rd, East Lansing, Michigan, for field plantings in 20 states. Most of the plantings were made in Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin.

## II. Description:

Silky dogwood is a shrub usually two to three meters in height, with yellowish-white flowers appearing in mid-June. The blue to pale blue fruit ripens in September. The yellow-green young stems change to reddish-brown and gray as they mature. It can be distinguished from most other dogwoods by the brown pith in one- and two-year-old stems. Details for positive identification can be found in a number of tree and shrub manuals.

### III. Potential Conservation Use:

The principal conservation use of silky dogwood will be for single-row windbreaks under center pivot irrigation systems, farmstead windbreaks, field windbreaks on organic soils, and wildlife shrub borders along woodlot and swale edges.

Silky dogwood may also be used as a wildlife shrub in strip plantings to furnish summer and fall wildlife food, as well as cover and travel lanes. Silky dogwood, when planted on moist, fertile soils, is an excellent food producer. The fruit begins to ripen in late summer and continues to be available thru mid-autumn. The fruits are readily eaten by many species of wildlife including ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey, numerous songbirds, raccoon, chipmunk, woodchuck and fox squirrel. The white-tailed deer and cottontail rabbit browse the younger twigs for winter food. Numerous songbirds utilize the silky dogwood strips for nesting sites.

### IV. Summary of Evaluation

Silky dogwood, PI-468117, has been evaluated for a number of years in the lake states area for both windbreaks and wildlife habitat. It is believed that the area of adaptation is considerably larger, however additional evaluations are needed to demonstrate its adaptation outside the lake states area. Performance ratings of silky dogwood for both uses ranged from excellent to fair, receiving mostly excellent to good ratings, and seldom rating below fair. Windbreak plantings on organic soils, when properly managed, were excellent. Silky dogwood has been evaluated to some extent in Oregon, Arizona, Alaska, North Dakota, Montana, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. In only a few cases did the plant receive favorable ratings. These evaluations indicated that most plantings made out of its native range did poorly.

TABLE 1  
VIGOR RATING FOR COMPARATIVE  
EVALUATIONS OF CORNUS AMOMUM

Accession No.	Source	Yr. Pltd.	% Sur.	1975 V HT Sp*	1976 V Ht Sp	1977 V Ht Sp	1978 V Ht Sp	1979 V Ht Sp	1980 V Ht Sp	1981 V Ht Sp
Mich-765 PI-468117	Rose Lake PMC	75	100	E 61 46	E 76 61	E 81 76	E 90 100	E 1.1 1.2	E 1.4 1.2	E 1.5 1.3
Mich-1721	Jasper-Pulaski Nursery, Ind.	75	90	E 61 46	E 76 61	E 81 76	E 90 100	E 1.0 1.1	G 1.2 1.2	G 1.3 1.3
Mich-1722	Wilson State Nursery, WI	75	91	E 61 46	E 76 61	E 81 76	G 76 80	G 1.1 .85	G 1.2 1.1	G 1.25 1.2
Mich-1723	Forrest Keeling Nursery, MO	75	92	E 61 46	E 76 61	E 81 76	E 90 100	E 1.2 1.1	G 1.4 1.2	E 1.5 1.4

LEGEND

V = Vigor

Ht = Height

Sp = Spread

E = Excellent

G = Good

\* = Measurement in cm. & m.

TABLE 2

## FIELD PLANTING - WINDBREAKS

MICHIGAN, INDIANA &amp; WISCONSIN

Accessions	Yr. Pltd.	70	71	72	73	74	Year Rated		77	78	79	80	81
'Cling-Red' Amur honeysuckle	68	3	3	3	3								
Amur honeysuckle, ND-11	68	2	4	5	5								
Silky dogwood, organic soil	68	2	2	3	2								
Autumn olive, Mich-777	69	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
'Cling-Red' Amur honeysuckle	69	2	2	1	2	2	2	2					
Silky dogwood (organic soil)	69	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Silky dogwood (organic soil)	70	1	1	1	1		1	1					
Silky dogwood	74					2	3	3	2	2	1	1	
Autumn olive, Mich-777	74					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
'Imperial' Carolina poplar	74					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Northern white-cedar	74					2	3	3	3	3	3	3	
'Cardinal' autumn olive	74					2	2	1	1	2	1	1	
Silky dogwood	77								1	2	2	1	
'Flame' Amur maple	77								1	2	2	1	
Border privet	77								3	3	3	3	
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	78									1	1		

Rating: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Failure

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-Continued-

TABLE 2

## FIELD PLANTING - WINDBREAKS

MICHIGAN, INDIANA &amp; WISCONSIN

Accessions	Yr. Pltd.	70	71	72	73	74	Year Rated		77	78	79	80	81
Silky dogwood	78									3	2		
Cheyenne privet	78									1	2		
Silky dogwood	78									2	2	2	
'Cardan' green ash	78									1	1	1	
White spruce	78									2	3	3	
Silky dogwood	79										1	2	
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	79										2	2	
Border privet	79										1	1	
Silky dogwood	79										2	2	
Autumn olive, Mich-777	79										1	1	
Indiana													
Silky dogwood	79										1	2	
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	79										1	1	
Wisconsin													
Silky dogwood	80											1	
Autumn olive, Mich-777	80											1	
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	80											1	

Rating: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Failure

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TABLE 3  
FIELD EVALUATION PLANTING (WINDBREAK)

MSU MUCK FARM

(LAST EVALUATION 7/6/69)

Accession	Yrs. Pltd. 1955	Stand & Survival	Vigor	Production	Effectiveness	Remarks
Silky dogwood		1	1	1	1	Silky dogwood and
Blue arctic willow		out	-	-	-	Tatarian honeysuckle
Medium purple willow		out	-	-	-	both look real good
Tall purple willow		3	3	3	3	
Purple Persian lilac		5	-	-	-	
Regal privet		5	-	-	-	
Amur river privet		5	-	-	-	
Purple lilac		5	-	-	-	
Multiflora rose		5	-	-	-	
Tatarian honeysuckle		1	1	1	1	

Rating: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Failure

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TABLE 4

## FIELD PLANTING - WILDLIFE

## MICHIGAN, INDIANA &amp; WISCONSIN

Accessions	Yr. Pltd.	County	70	71	72	73	74	Year Rated		77	78	79	80	81
	Michigan													
Silky dogwood	69	Alpena	2	2										
Silver buffaloberry	69		2	2	2	2								
Mongolian cherry	69		3	3	3	3								
Zumi crabapple	69		2	2	2	2								
'Cling-Red' Amur honeysuckle	69		2	2										
Silky dogwood	69	Cheboygan	2	2	2	2	2							
'Flame' Amur maple	69		1	3	3	3	3	1						
'Midwest' Manchurian crabapple	69		4	3	3	3	3							
Zumi crabapple	69		2	3	3	3	3							
'Cling-Red' Amur honeysuckle	69		2	3	3	3	3							
'Flame' Amur maple	70	Ontonagon		2	4	4								
Silky dogwood	70		2	1	4	4								
Silver buffaloberry	70		3	2	3	4								
Washington hawthorn	70			1	3	4								
Silky dogwood	71	Marquette		2	2	3	3	4						
European black alder	71			2	1	2	2							
'Cardinal' autumn olive	71			1	3	3	3							

Rating: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Failure

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-Continued-



TABLE 4  
FIELD PLANTING - WILDLIFE  
MICHIGAN, INDIANA & WISCONSIN

Accessions	Yr. Pltd.	County	70	71	72	73	74	Year Rated					78	79	80	81
	Michigan															
'Arnot' bristly locust	71	Marquette		2	3	4	2									
Northern white-cedar	71			5	5											
Silky dogwood	71	Shiawassee		1	3	3	2	3	3	3						
'Cardinal' autumn olive	71			1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
"Cling-Red" Amur honeysuckle	71			2	3	2	2	3	3	3						
'Midwest' Manchurian crabapple	71			1	1	1	2	2	2	2						
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	71			1	2	1	2	2	2	2						
'Flame' Amur maple	71	Ontonagon			2	4										
Silky dogwood	71				2	3										
Silver buffaloberry	71				2	2										
Washington hawthorn	71				2	4										
Silky dogwood	72	Mecosta					2	4	4							
Washington hawthorn	72						4	2	3							
Silky dogwood	72	Montcalm				3	3	3	3							
'Cardinal' autumn olive	72					2	2	2	2							
Autumn olive, Mich-777	72					2	2	2	2							
Autumn olive, M1-6369	72					4	4	3	4							

Rating: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Failure

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-Continued-

TABLE 4

## FIELD PLANTING - WILDLIFE

MICHIGAN, INDIANA &amp; WISCONSIN

Accessions	Yr. Pltd.	County	70	71	72	73	74	Year	Rated	75	76	77	78	79	80	81
	Michigan															
European black alder	73	Wayne					2	2	2	2						
Silky dogwood	73						2	2				2				
Simon poplar	73						2	2				2				
'Rem-Red' Amur honeysuckle	73						2	2								
Radiant crabapple	73						2	2								
'Flame' Amur maple	74	Ionia					1	1								
Silky dogwood	74						1	1	1	1		1	2			
Autumn olive, Mich-777	74						1	1								
'Pink Lady' winterberry euonymus	74						1	1	1	1		1	3			
Crabapple, Mich-860	74						1	1	1	1		1	3			
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	74						1	1	1	1		1	3			
Zumi crabapple	74						1	1	1	1		1	3			
'Midwest' Manchurian crabapple	74						1	1	1	1		1	3			
Silky dogwood	76	Washtenaw							1	1		1	1	1	1	
Northern white-cedar	76								1	2		2	2	2	2	
Silky dogwood	77	Houghton-										2	2	4		

Rating: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Failure

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-Continued-

TABLE 4

## FIELD PLANTING - WILDLIFE

## MICHIGAN, INDIANA &amp; WISCONSIN

Accessions	Yr. Pltd.	County	70	71	72	73	74	Year Rated		77	78	79	80	81
	Michigan													
'Cardinal' autumn olive	77	Keweenaw								2	2	4		
Autumn olive, Mich-777	77									2	2	4		
'Midwest' Manchurian crabapple	77									2	3	4		
Crabapple, Mich-1704	77									2	3	4		
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	77									2	3	4		
	Indiana													
Silky dogwood	73	Wells						2	2	2	2	2		
White belle honeysuckle	73							2	2	2	1	1		
European black alder	73							3	3		2	1		
Silky dogwood	75	Gibson								1	1	1		
Washington hawthorn	75									1	1	1		
Autumn olive, Mich-777	75									2	2	2		
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	75									1	1	1		
'Flame' Amur maple	76	Wabash							2	1	1	1		
Silky dogwood	76								2	2	1	1		
Autumn olive, Mich-777	76								2	1	1	1		
'Pink Lady' winterberry euonymus	76								2	2	3	2		

Rating: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Failure

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-Continued-

TABLE 4

## FIELD PLANTING - WILDLIFE

## MICHIGAN, INDIANA &amp; WISCONSIN

Accessions	Yr. Pltd.	County	70	71	72	73	74	Year Rated		77	78	79	80	81
	Indiana													
Crabapple, Mich-860	76	Wabash							2	1	1	1		
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	76								2	1	1	1		
Bittersweet	77	Brown									2	2		
Silky dogwood	77										2	2		
"Cling-Red" Amur honeysuckle	77										2	2		
Firethorn	77										2	2		
	Wisconsin													
Silky dogwood	74	Taylor						1	1	1	1	1		
'Cardinal' autumn olive	74							2	2	2	2	2		
Autumn olive, Mich-777	74							1	1	1	1	1		
'Midwest' Manchurian crabapple	74							1	1	1	2	2		
Crabapple, Mich-860	74							2	1	1	1	1		
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	74							1	1	1	1	1		
Zumi crabapple	74							2	2	2	1	1		
Smallflower rose	74							1	1	1	1	1		
Silver buffaloberry	74							3	5					

Rating: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Failure

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-Continued-

TABLE 4

## FIELD PLANTING - WILDLIFE

## MICHIGAN, INDIANA &amp; WISCONSIN

Accessions	Yr.	County	70	71	72	73	74	Year Rated		77	78	79	80	81
	Pltd.							75	76					
	Wisconsin													
Silky dogwood	76	LaCrosse							2	1	1	2		
'Cardinal' autumn olive	76								2	1	1	1		
Autumn olive, Mich-777	76								2	1	1	1		
'Pink Lady' winterberry euonymus	76								4	2		2		
Silky dogwood	77	Price								1	2	2		
'Cardinal' autumn olive	77									2	2	3		
Autumn olive, Mich-777	77									1	2	3		
'Midwest' Manchurian crabapple	77									1	2	2		
'Roselow' Sargent crabapple	77									1	2	2		

Rating: 1 = Excellent, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, 5 = Failure

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## V. Diseases, Insects and Animal Damages:

No serious diseases have been observed on silky dogwood plantings. Occasionally there has been an occurrence of webworm attacks.

An infestation of scurfy scale has been observed on some of the plants. The insect can be controlled with a dormant spray or with a contact spray when the crawlers emerge in the spring.

In some cases deer browse damage may temporarily retard the growth of this plant, especially when the browsing of succulent new growth occurs. Where plantings are made in grass sod cover, rodent damage may occur in winter.

## VI. Method of Establishment

Silky dogwood is easily propagated from seed. For seedling production, the common nursery practice is to seed the cleaned stones in the fall covering them with  $\frac{1}{4}$ - to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch of soil. The seed beds should be mulched with sawdust or straw.

For field plantings, site preparation is necessary. Prepare the site by plowing, discing, or by applying selected approved herbicides. Minimum soil preparation must consist of scalping sod off at least one foot square. Plants may be planted by hand or with a tree planter. Planting holes or furrows must be deep enough to take the full root without bending. The recommended spacing may vary for intended use but generally 1.5 meters or 5 foot spacing is adequate for most practices.

VII. Seed Production & Varietal Maintenance:

*11,500 seed/lb  
est. 90% at 2300 pcts/lb*

A seed orchard has been established at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center. This seed orchard will be maintained as the breeders block for foundation seed production for distribution to public and commercial nurserymen. There have been no particular seed production problems.

VIII. Area of Adaptation:

The natural range of the species adaptation is the New England States south to Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee north to Michigan and Wisconsin.

IX. Cultivar Name: 'Indigo'

X. Signatures:

Homer R Hilborn

9/9/82

State Conservationist  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Soil Conservation Service  
East Lansing, Michigan

Date

Howard A. Tanner

9/16/82

Director,  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Lansing, Michigan

Date

Shawn G. Shiftet

10/22/82

Director Ecological Sciences  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Soil Conservation Service  
Washington, D.C.

Date