United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Ecological Sciences and Technology Division
Washington, D. C.

Notice of the Naming and Release of 'Redstone' Cornelian cherry dogwood.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (SCS) announce the release of 'Redstone' Cornelian cherry dogwood, (Cornus mas L.) for conservation and amenity planting in the central cornbelt region.

Redstone was received in 1934, from the David E. Parks, Bureau of Parks, Rochester, New York, by B. H. Slavin. It was evaluated, selected and increased at the USDA, SCS, Plant Materials Center (PMC), Elsberry, Missouri. There are no commercially released cultivars of Cornelian cherry dogwood.

Cornelian cherry dogwood is an introduced woody species native to central and southern Europe and western Asia. The Elsberry PMC has evaluated Redstone as accession numbers M1-420 and 905585.

It was selected on the basis of superior seedling vigor, dense growth form and glossy foliage. It has demonstrated excellent survival and longevity with no apparent disease or insect problems in the 44 years of evaluation on the PMC. Other desirable characteristics include attractive yellow flowers and abundant, edible scarlet fruit.

Redstone is a shrub or small tree reaching a height of 20 feet (6.2 m); bark scaly, dark brown; young bracts minutely appressed-pilose, greenish yellow, later brown. Leaves dark green, glossy ovate to elliptic, 4-20 cm. long, acute to acuminate, with 3-5 pairs of veins. Flowers are yellow on short stalked umbels; bracts yellowish; pedicels are about as long as bracts; sepals shorter. Fruits are ellipsoid, 1-2 to 1.5 cm. long, scarlet; 2,000 seeds (clean) per pound. Flowering occurs March - April; fruit ripens August - September.

Redstone is a seed propagated cultivar recommended for use in multi-row farmstead windbreaks, wildlife habitat, and plantings associated in revegetation of transportation corridors and recreation development areas.

Redstone Cornelian cherry dogwood has performed well on deep, fine to moderately fine textured well-drained soils and climatic conditions typical of the central cornbelt region.

Field plantings are currently under way to further define its area of adaptation and performance. Evaluations of Redstone at the Elsberry PMC and in selected Midwest states indicate it is adapted in plant hardiness zones 5a - 7a. It has no apparent disease and insect problems.