

# Cornus mas

## 'Dublany'

### Dogwood



Botanically known as *Cornus mas*, cornelian cherry belongs to the dogwood family scientifically known as *Cornaceae*. This fruit with popular names such as Cornelian cherry, European cornel or Cornelian cherry dogwood is a class of flowering plant in the dogwood family. Having its roots native to southern Europe this plant can be prominently found in the lands of France to Ukraine. Also this tree has shown its presence in south western Asia. Regions of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Turkey, Israel, Lebanon and Syria have also witnessed the growth of its vegetation.

Being an ornamental plant with attractive flowers this plant appears to have leaves that grow opposite to each other, growing 10 cm long and 4 cm broad, the shape of a cornelian cherry is an ovate to oblong shape and an entire margin.

The flowers borne by this plant are small, with four yellow petals, produced in clusters of 25 together in the late winter, well before the leaves appear. These flowers are a source of food to the bees and are also resistant to fungal attacks caused by the honey. The fruit is a



monocotyledon that appears to have an oblong shaped red dupe growing 2 cm long and 1.5 cm in diameter. The berries when ripe on the plant bear analikeness to coffee berries, and ripen in mid- to late summer. The fruit is edible, but the unripe fruit is caustic. The fruit only fully ripens after it falls from the tree. When ripe, the fruit is dark ruby red or a bright yellow. It has an acidic flavor which is best termed as a blend of cranberry and sour cherry.

This fruit is not just limited to its edible goodness, cornelian cherry is a house of medical properties and nutrients. This fruit is an astringent causing the contraction of body muscles or tissues in case of excessive bleeding, it is also a febrifuge that helps in reducing the impact of fever and brings down the body temperature to normalcy. The bark and fruit are also nutritive and helps in restoring the lost nutrients of the body. The astringent property of the fruit acts as a good treatment for bowel complaints and fevers, at the same time as it is also used in the treatment of cholera. The flowers of cornelian cherry are used in the treatment of diarrhea.

various diseases and health conditions such as aching lower back and knees, vertigo, tinnitus, spermatorrhea, frequent urination, liver-deficiency chills and fever, persistent sweating due to deficiency, palpitations, scattered pulse, neurasthenia, menstrual disorders, and more can be taken care of by the properties of the cornelian cherry plant.



The utility of this plant is highly accepted and appreciated across the globe. They are used as a key ingredient for making zesty jam. Owing to its similar taste to that of cranberry, Cornelian Cherries are deseeded and cooked with sugar and orange to prepare a sauce like the cranberry sauce. These berries are also consumed in their dried form.

Used in distillation of vodka in countries like Azerbaijan and Armenia, this fruit has made its prominence felt in the beverage industry. Having

said that this fruit is used to make the alcoholic beverage raki or rakia in Albania.

It is consumed as a snack with salt by people in Iran and Turkey during summer. These berries are also traditionally consumed in cold drinks in Iran and Turkey.

