

## Another Useful Shrub

### Diane Cole

We grow a number of *Cornus* in our garden but one of my favourites is *Cornus officinalis*. Our specimen was planted about twelve years ago and has made a very neat multi-stemmed shrub about 1.5m tall, although it can also be grown as a small tree. In late winter the bare stems are studded with clusters of small yellow flowers. These flowers are followed by red fruit in late summer. The mid green leaves have handsome red and orange autumn tints before falling. Established plants have interesting peeling bark.

*Cornus officinalis* should be planted in a sunny position on neutral to acid soil. We have it planted on a west facing bank in the most appalling soil which may be why it has remained so compact, as it can become quite a large shrub. I have never had to prune it and just give it an annual mulch of composted waste from the Council.



*Cornus officinalis* - flowers



*Cornus officinalis* – autumn colour