



White Dogwood

(*Cornus florida*)



GENERAL INFO

Sometimes considered the most spectacular of the native, flowering trees, flowering dogwood is a 20-40 ft., single- or multi-trunked tree with a spreading crown and long-lasting, showy, white, and pink spring blooms. A lovely, small, flowering tree with short trunk and crown of spreading, or nearly horizontal, branches. Graceful, horizontal-tiered branching; red fruits; and scarlet-red fall foliage are other landscape attributes. Flowering dogwood is deciduous.

Flowering Dogwood is one of the most beautiful eastern North American trees with showy early spring flowers, red fruit, and scarlet autumn foliage. The hard wood is extremely shock-resistant and useful for making weaving-shuttles. It is also made into spools, small pulleys, mallet heads, and jeweler's blocks. Native Americans used the aromatic bark and roots as a remedy for malaria and extracted a red dye from the roots.

The dogwood flower, which is actually the petal-like bracts, is the state flower of North Carolina, and the tree is found throughout the state, usually growing under larger forest trees and at woodland edges. With multi-season interest, it has many uses in the landscape such as a butterfly, pollinator, or children's garden, a native or winter garden, accenting a patio or play area, a specimen, or shade tree. Needs ample water. Probably the most attractive flowering dogwood.



Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida



An excellent landscape choice for all four seasons, the white dogwood is a favorite in many yards and gardens. White “flowers” show their beauty in spring, foliage turns a vibrant red-purple in fall, and glossy red fruits attract winter songbirds for the enjoyment of all. This tree offers nice contrast when planted along with pink or red dogwoods with larger evergreens in the background.

- Displays showy white spring flowers
- Features red-purple color in the fall
- Produces glossy red fruit eaten by birds

Shape: Rounded

Growth Speed: Medium

Mature Height: 15’ – 30’

Mature Spread: 15’ – 30’

Sun Preference: Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Loamy, Moist, Rich, Sandy, Well Drained

Wildlife Value: The seed, fruit, flowers, twigs, bark and leaves are all used as food by various animals. At least 36 species of birds—including ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail and wild turkey—are known to eat the fruit. Chipmunks, foxes, squirrels, skunks, rabbits, deer, beaver, black bear and other mammals also eat the fruit. Foliage and twigs are browsed heavily by deer and rabbits.

History/Lore: Native from Massachusetts to Florida and west to Texas, this tree was cultivated in 1731. A favorite in America for centuries, both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson planted it on their plantations. Early Native Americans made medicinal teas from its bark, and desperate Civil War doctors used this tea as a quinine substitute. The wood is extremely hard and has been used for weaver’s shuttles, chisel and maul handles, golf club heads and yokes. It is the state tree of Missouri and Virginia.

