



Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

Plant Description – Native, tree, deciduous, perennial

Height: 15 – 30 ft **Width/Spread:** 15 – 30 ft



Leaves



Shape: Ovate

Arrangement: Opposite

Margin: Entire/Smooth

Form: Simple

Leaf Description: Leaves are 3-6 inches long and 3-6 inches wide; dark green on the upper side and more pale underneath; veins bend upward toward the tip; turn bright reddish purple in the fall. When trees are young, bark is smooth; bark becomes scaly as the tree matures

Flower/Bloom

Flower Color: White or pink bracts with yellowish green cluster of flowers

Flower Shape: Cross

In Bloom: Mar - May

Flower Description: 3-4 inches across; Yellowish green flowers are clustered in the center and have four white or pink bracts below



Fruits & Seeds

Spreads via: Seeds

Seed Type: Fruit – Berry

Months in Seed: Fall

Fruit and Seed Description: Grow in clusters of 3 or 4 berries that are glossy bright red, oval shaped, and 1/2 inches in diameter

Ecological Benefits

Food source for Butterflies, Caterpillars (Spring Azure and Summer Azure), Native Bees, Other Birds, Deer, and Small Mammals

Maintenance Notes

Dormant in winter; Pruning is not necessary, but can be pruned in the spring to help maintain its shape; Maintain a mulch layer around the base to help keep roots cool and moist, especially during the summer; Fertilize in spring and fall; Until established, water two times per week during the summer and once per week during the rest of the year.