

## ***Cornus florida***

Flowering dogwood

**Height:** 15-30 ft

**Spread:** 15-30 ft

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Soil Moisture:** mesic to dry, organically rich, neutral to acidic. Benefits from a 2-4" mulch which will help keep roots cool and moist in summer.

**Soil Types:** Sand, Loam, Clay and some rocky material

**Bloom Time:** April-May, usually at the same time as the redbuds

**Bloom Description:** Showy white bracts. The true dogwood flowers are tiny, yellowish green in clusters and are surrounded by four showy, white, petal-like bracts which open flat, giving the appearance of a single, large, 3-4" diameter, 4-petaled, white flower. While the flowers remain in bloom for only a short period of time, the bracts remain attractive for about a month.

**Leaf:** burgundy or purplish red in the fall

**Fruit:** Bright red fruits are bitter and inedible to human, but are loved by birds. Fruits mature in late summer to early fall and may persist until late in the year.

**Uses:** Popular as a specimen or small grouping on residential property around homes, near patios or in lawns. Also effective in woodland, bird or native plant gardens.

**Wildlife:** The red fruits have a high fat content, so are attractive to many songbirds

**Nectar:** Small bees and flies (Halictid bees, Andrenid bees, bee flies, and Syrphid flies)

**Larval Host:** Spring Azure

**Pollinators:** Small bees and flies

**Deer Resistant:** No

**Comments:** It arguably may be the most beautiful of the native American flowering trees. Widely grown cultivars are similar to the native trees, but tend to have bracts that are wider and showier. Some cultivars have pink bracts or variegated leaves.

