



# Flowering Dogwood Care And Information Sheet

Dogwood is a standard tree in many gardens where it is used by the patio for light shade, in the shrub border to add spring and fall color or as a specimen in the lawn or groundcover bed. It can be grown in sun or shade but shaded trees will be less dense, grow more quickly and taller, have poor fall color, and less flowers. Trees prefer shade in the afternoon. Plants in full sun are considered more resistant to anthracnose, a lethal disease.

Flowering Dogwood prefers a deep, rich, well-drained, sandy or loam soil and has a moderately long life. It is not recommended for heavy, wet soils unless it is grown on a raised bed to keep roots on the dry side. The roots will rot in soils without adequate drainage. It is not recommended for planting along streets or in parking lots due to intolerance to hot dry conditions. Established trees tolerate root disturbance poorly. If it is too hot, too dry, or too wet, tip necrosis and marginal necrosis appear on the foliage.

At least 86 species of birds devour the fruits. Squirrels, skunks, rabbits and raccoons also like the red berries. Plants serve as butterfly nectar sources and as hosts for butterfly larvae.

Clear all turf away from beneath the branches and mulch to the drip line to reduce competition with turf and weeds. This will allow roots to become established quickly and keep plants healthier. Train and prune the trunks and branches so they will not touch each other. Remove some secondary branches on main branches with included bark, or those that are likely to develop it, as soon as possible. This reduces the likelihood of splitting from the tree later, when the tree has grown to become an important part of the landscape. Locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size, since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size. The tree can enhance any landscape with its delightful spring flush of flowers. It can be the centerpiece of your landscape if properly located. Flowers develop from buds formed the previous year. Do not use peat moss to amend the soil.

Remember to plant high and locate the root flare. Our dogwoods are typically a little loose in the ball so transport the tree with care, always handle by the ball and not the trunk. Do not plant in a wet location.

## *Cornus florida*

Flowering Dogwood  
Cornaceae (Dogwood)

Type	Tree, woody plant
Hardy range	5A to 9A
Height	20' to 25'
Spread	20' to 30'
Growth rate	Average
Form	Rounded
Exposure	Full shade to full sun
Persistence	Deciduous

Bloom Color White, Pink, Red  
Bloom Time Spring

The flowers are very showy.

### Environment

This plant tolerates some drought and a little salt.  
This plant will grow in dry soil.  
Suitable soil is well-drained/loamy, sandy or clay.  
The pH preference is an acidic to slightly alkaline (less than 6.8 to 7.7) soil.

Leaf Color Green  
Fall Color Red  
This plant has attractive fall colors.

### Landscape Uses

- Woodland garden
- Border
- Specimen

### Attributes and Features

- Attracts birds
- Attracts butterflies
- Persistent fruit
- Attractive fruit
- Fruit is edible by birds
- Sensitive to ozone