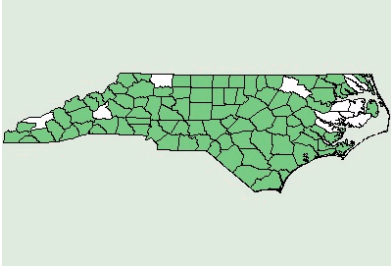


FLOWERING DOGWOOD

Cornus florida

This beloved tree is North Carolina's state flower. A slow grower, it can tolerate a wide range of soil types.



Description: Small, deciduous tree with a low-branching, broadly pyramidal but somewhat flat-topped habit. Blooms early spring. The true dogwood flowers are actually tiny, yellowish green and insignificant, being compacted into button-like clusters. However, each flower cluster is surrounded by four showy, white, petal-like bracts that open flat, giving the appearance of a single,

large white flower. In autumn, the oval, dark green leaves gradually change to a uniform scarlet red. Bright red fruits mature in early fall and usually persist until the middle of December.

Natural Habitat: A native understory tree in eastern forests as far west as Missouri and Texas. Common throughout N.C.

Conservation Status: Endangered in Maine, threatened in Vermont, vulnerable in New York. Threatened through most of its range by a deadly fungus, dogwood anthracnose.

Size: 15-30' high, spread.

Growth Rate: Slow to moderate.

Light: Full sun to part shade.

Planting and Care: Prefers organically rich, acidic soils in part shade. Benefits from 4-6" mulch that will help keep roots cool and moist in summer. Unfortunately this tree, particularly when stressed, is susceptible to a rather large number of disease problems, the most serious of which is dogwood anthracnose.

Ornamental Value: Showy flowers in spring, bright red leaves in fall.

Landscape Usage: This popular and beloved tree is commonly planted as a specimen or in small groupings on residential property around homes, near patios or in lawns. Also effective in woodland, bird or native plant gardens.

Wildlife Benefits: 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 plus other mammals, also eat the fruit. Foliage and twigs are browsed heavily by deer and rabbits.