




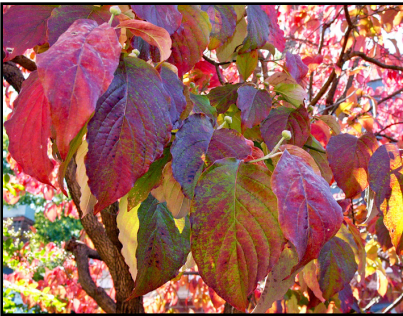

Benthamidia florida*

Flowering Dogwood

Tried and True
Native Plants
of the Mid-Atlantic

Commonly found in the forest understory or as a landscape ornamental, this high wildlife value **native**** with four-season interest is far from ordinary. This beauty serves as North Carolina state flower and Missouri state tree. In Virginia, it is both official floral and arboreal emblems. The Virginia Native Plant Society honored Flowering Dogwood as Wildflower of the Year in 2018.



Tree	Tree, Flowers, Fruit, Fall Foliage, Mature Bark
Height: 15–30 feet	
Spread: 15–30 feet	
Bloom Color: White	
Characteristics	
Pyramidal to flat-topped, small deciduous tree or large shrub with low, horizontal branching habit	   
Opposite, pinnate, ovate leaves w/ smooth margins	
Four showy, 2" white (at times pink-tinted) petaloid bracts subtend a cluster of 3/4-inch, yellow-green flowers with 4 recurved petals that bloom April–May	
Green ovoid/ellipsoid drupes ripen to red late summer	
Showy fall foliage in shades of red to purplish	
Distinctive gray to brown, square-plated mature bark	
Attributes	
Tolerates clay soil , black walnut; intolerant of stress like heat & drought; susceptible to pests (like borers) & diseases (like powdery mildew, leaf spot & possibly lethal dogwood anthracnose) esp. when stressed	
Deer and rabbits occasionally severely damage	
Attracts small bees, flies to flowers; songbirds, small mammals to fruit; larval host to ~110 lepidopterans	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Well-drained, average, acidic	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> - Golden Raintree
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Malus</i> spp. - Chinese/Japanese/Siberian Crabapples
Water Requirements: Moist	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> - Princess Tree
To help prevent anthracnose, site where foliage won't remain wet for long periods or in sunnier spots	<i>Prunus</i> spp - Sweet Cherry & Higan Cherry
Use as a specimen, near patios, in woodland and native gardens, and in naturalistic settings	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> - Callery ('Bradford') Pear
Hardiness: USDA Zones 5a-9b	*Synonymous with <i>Cornus florida</i> as it was known before traditional <i>Cornus</i> was split into several genera. **Mostly common in the Mid-Atlantic Region (although less so since the arrival of anthracnose).

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills (top), Thomas Jefferson Community Center and by Mary Free, [Creating Inviting Habitats](#) & Arlington, VA



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