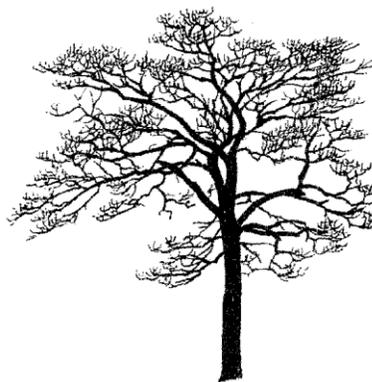
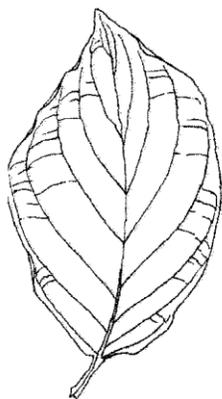


Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This is possibly the most noble of the small flowering trees. It blooms in April-May with inconspicuous inflorescences subtended by large showy white bracts that emerge before the foliage. While it can grow in an open sunny area, the flowering dogwood is excellent in a shady environment perhaps showing more form there. This is a low branching tree with a rounded to flat topped appearance. Opposite branching produces a layered look that is especially appealing. Flowering dogwood has four season interest; spring flowers, unique summer foliage and fruiting, fall red foliage color and an alligator skin like bark and layered branching in the winter.

HABIT AND SIZE: A shrub or small tree that can reach 30' in height and which is often wider than high. A short trunked tree with spreading or horizontal branches and a somewhat flat topped or rounded crown.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: A small to moderate tree of excellent four season interest that can succeed in shady environments. Excellent as a specimen tree near a patio, in a small landscape planting, near the corner of a house at the edge of a wooded area or in groupings. Susceptibility to disease discourages its use in favor of the 'Kousa Dogwood'.

LEAVES: Opposite, simple, ovate or elliptic-ovate, 2-6" long, tapering to a point and narrowing to a base attached to a short petiole. Leaf top dark green and hairless and leaf bottom lighter due to a waxy bloom (glaucous) with hairs on veins. Distinctive venation of 6-7 pairs of arching veins that are approximately parallel.

FLOWERS: Small greenish-yellow perfect flowers in naked cymes. Subtended by a 2.5-3" involucre of 4 creamy white bracts with a dimple at the tip. There is a four toothed calyx tube adherent to the 2 loculed ovary, a corolla of 4 oblong spreading petals, and 4 stamens

FRUIT: Ellipsoid glossy red drupes 0.33" long with persistent calyx lobes. 3-4 in a cluster.

BUD: Flower buds at the stem tip globose, slightly flattened, valvate and covered by 2 large tightly wrapping silky hairy scales. Vegetative buds small, slender with non-overlapping bud scales (valvate). Buds almost hidden by leaf scars that are raised and encircle the stem.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Prone to many diseases especially the anthracnose *Discula*.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 5-9, s Vt. to Fla. west to Kans. and s to Tex.

CULTIVARS: 'Rubra'- pink bracts, 'First Lady' -variegated yellow-green foliage, 'Cherokee Chief'- deep red bracts, 'Pluribracteata' -double white flowers and 'Cloud Nine' -very hardy blooms at an early age.