

**Kousa Dogwood**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** This is a very respectable dogwood that is somewhat upright or vase shaped when young and rounded to spreading at maturity. It does not have the aristocratic form of *C. florida*, but is resistant to *Discula* spp. anthracnose and therefore is a preferred choice for the garden. *Kousa-florida* hybrids from Rutgers University are disease resistant and some have the *C. florida* elegance of form. Kousa dogwoods bloom several weeks later than *C. florida* so that using both forms provides a prolonged blooming period.

**HABIT AND SIZE:** A shrub or small tree 10-15 feet tall (sometimes more) with a vase like habit when young and a more rounded habit at maturity. A stratified branching pattern and strong horizontal lines with old age.

**LANDSCAPE VALUE:** Similar in use as *C. florida* but smaller and more compact. Preferred for its disease resistance.

**LEAVES:** Opposite, simple elliptic-ovate 2-4" long and 0.75-1.75" wide. Coming to a point or wedge shaped. Color dark green above and lighter below, glaucous with shaggy soft appressed hairs and axillary brownish tufts of hairs. Leaf venation similar to *C. florida*.

**FLOWERS:** The inflorescence is a tight stalked (2" peduncle) umbel of small greenish-yellow flowers subtended by an involucre of 4 pointed white bracts 1-2" long and 0.25-0.5" wide. Individual flower structure similar to *C. florida*.

**FRUIT:** Red to pinkish red drupes borne in a 0.5-1" round raspberry like cluster (syncarp) on a 2-2.5" stalk.

**BUD:** Flower buds at the end of a stem pointed on top and round flattened below with 2 non-overlapping appressed hairy bud scales. Vegetative buds valvate, appressed, deep brown and longer than *C. florida*.

**DISEASES AND INSECTS:** Some susceptibility to borer otherwise disease free.

**HARDINESS AND RANGE:** Zones (4)5-8. Korea, China and Japan

**CULTIVARS:** Not many good species cultivars but a number of Rutgers hybrids with characteristics intermediate between *C. Kousa* and *C. florida*.