

Growing Flowering Dogwood Trees

Dogwoods are among some of the most beautiful trees found in the landscape. They are a small growing tree (15-30') that offers interest throughout all four seasons – stunning spring bloom, dark shiny green leaves, red berries desired by wildlife, brilliant fall color, and interesting bark.

The two most recognized species in the landscape are the flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) which is native to the Northeast and Central United States and the Chinese or Kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) which is native to Japan, Korea and China. This guide will help you distinguish the difference between the many different varieties carried at Bristol's Garden Center and help you select the best variety for your landscape.

Kousa (Chinese) Dogwood – *Cornus kousa*

Kousa dogwoods are later to bloom (Mid May-Early July), generally 2-3 weeks after the native flowering dogwood. Bright white flowers with pointed petals emerge after the glossy, dark green leaves. During summer a fruit about the size of a nickel appears that looks almost like a rounded strawberry, enjoyed by birds but also edible to humans. Like many species of Dogwood the Kousa puts on a spectacular display of fall colors ranging from bright orange-red to a burgundy-purple. As the tree matures the bark begins to peel and flake off giving it a mottled look.

Like the native, the Kousa is primarily found as an understory tree. Although it would prefer some afternoon shade and shelter from wind it tends to be much more tolerant than the native flowering Dogwoods. Kousa dogwoods need a well-drained soil and are tolerant to drought and heat.

Native Flowering Dogwood – *Cornus florida*

The first of all the dogwoods to bloom in early spring (late April – May). Flowers are either white or pink depending on the variety and appear before the foliage. After flowering, attractive glossy, green foliage covers the tree, giving way to small clusters of bright red fruit that is favored by birds. During the fall months foliage turns a brilliant red to reddish purple color.

Site selection is extremely important when growing this particular species of dogwood. As a tree that is natively found in the understory of large hardwood forests, shade and shelter from wind are key. Part sun/shade — Morning sun and afternoon shade is most ideal; Plus a soil that is slightly acidic and rich in organic matter is preferred. Any of the *Cornus florida* varieties are tolerant of Black Walnut trees and they can be grown in damp areas.

Dogwoods



Cornus Kousa	Size	Fruit	Other Information
'Greensleeves'	15-20' tall and wide	Large, gorgeous fruit that turn from pink to dark red.	Large, glossy, dark green leaves, with creamy white flowers that look stunning against the foliage.
'Kousa'	20-30' tall and wide	Modest sized fruit, about the size of a quarter. Raspberry red, edible.	Native to Japan, Korea, and China. Blooms in June. Beautiful exfoliating bark. Excellent specimen or screening plant.
'Little Poncho'	8-10' tall 6-8' wide	Rosy red berry-like fruits, similar to other varieties of Kousa.	Nice compact growing, dwarf variety of the Kousa dogwood. Great for small spaces. Very slow growing.
'Madame Butterfly'	15' tall and wide	Red-orange lychee-like fruit in fall.	Flower bracts are creamy white to pink as they age, can appear like a butterfly in flight.
'Milky Way'	20-30' tall and wide	Pinkish-red strawberry like fruit late summer.	Creamy white star shaped flowers. Dark green leaves turn red-orange in fall.
'Satomi'	15-25' tall and wide	Modest sized fruit, about the size of a quarter. Raspberry red, edible.	Beautiful pink blooming Kousa Dogwood. Kousa can tolerate a little more sun exposure than C. florida.
'Scarlet Fire'	15-20' tall and wide	Red fruit, becoming edible when they are soft to the touch.	A newer introduction, dark pink/fuchsia flowers. One of the more sun tolerant as it can stand in full sun to partial shade
'Square Dance'	20' tall and wide	Red fruits in fall.	Creamy white flowers late June-July. Considered slightly less cold tolerant than Kousa standard.
'Wolf Eyes'	6-9' tall and wide	Modest sized fruit, about the size of a quarter. Raspberry red, edible.	Variegated foliage on a dwarf plant. Excellent for foundation planting because of its small size. Pinkish-red fall color.

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Cornus Florida	Size	Fruit	Other Information
'Appalachian Spring'	15-25' tall and wide	High volume of glossy red fruit in fall.	High resistance to anthracnose and mildew. A wild seedling selection.
'Cherokee Brave'	20-25' tall and wide	Clusters of glossy red fruit in fall.	Vigorous grower. Excellent mildew resistance. Very prolific.
'Cherokee Chief'	15-25' tall and wide	Clusters of glossy red fruit in fall.	Large showy deep pink flowers. Lush green to autumn red foliage. Pest, drought and deer resistant.
'Cherokee Princess'	15-25' tall and wide	Clusters of glossy red fruit in fall.	One of the best white flowering varieties. Prolific bloomer with large white flowers. Excellent resistance to anthracnose and canker.
'Cloud 9'	15-30' tall and wide	Bright red fruits loved by birds, non edible for humans.	White blossoms in late spring. Recognized for its ease of care and disease resistance.
'Pink Flowering'	15-25' tall and wide	Clusters of glossy red fruit in fall.	Flowers can vary in color from lighter pink to reddish pink.

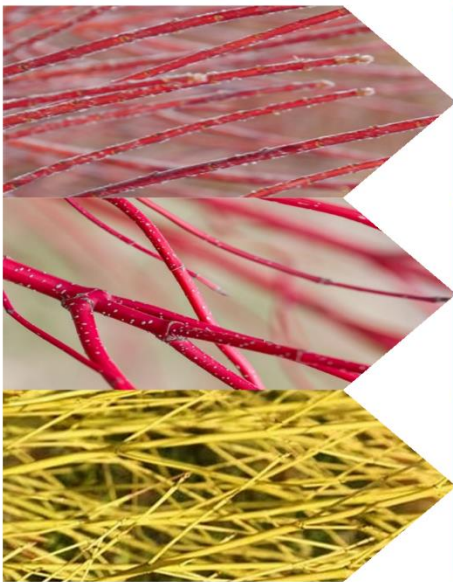


Cornus Alba	Size	Fruit	Other information
'Ivory Halo'	5-6' tall and wide	White fruits.	Colorful stems and white-green variegated leaf are what give this shrub its appeal. Great for a low hedge.

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Hybrid	Size	Fruit	Other Information
'Starlight'	30' tall 20' wide	Red orange fruit in fall.	Large creamy white flowers. Offers the upright growth habit and form of its Pacific Dogwood parent, plus the disease resistance of its Chinese Dogwood parent.
'Stellar Pink'	20-25' tall 15-20' wide	Sterile hybrid that does not produce fruit.	Cross between C. kousa and C. florida. Blooms a couple weeks later than C. florida. Excellent disease resistance.
'Venus'	20-30' tall and wide	Produces a red strawberry-like fruit, similar to that of the Kousa.	Cross between C. kousa and C. nuttallii. Enormous showy flowers up to 6" across. Blooms later and has excellent disease resistance.



Sericea	Size	Fruit	Other Information
'Arctic Fire'	3-5' tall and wide	White to blue tinged fruits.	Beautiful red stems for winter appeal. White flowers and dark green foliage. Shade tolerant.
'Firedance'	3-4' tall 4-5' wide	White berries.	White flowers in spring followed by white berries. Foliage turns red-purple which gives way to red stems for winter appeal.
'Yellow twig'	6-8' tall and wide	White ornamental fruit.	Yellow stems give striking winter color. White flower clusters in spring are followed by a white ornamental fruit. Great as a shrub border.



Cornus Alternifolia	Size	Fruit	Other Information
'Golden Shadows'	10-12' tall and wide	Dark blue fruits in late summer.	A yellow-green variegated pagoda cultivar. Lacy white blooms. Can thrive in light shade.
'Pagoda'	15-25' tall 20-30' wide	Bluish-black fruits in late summer.	Horizontal branching creates a tiered habit. Clusters of white flowers in spring.