

Flowering Dogwood

Cornus Florida

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The **Bark** of the flowering dogwood resembles alligator hide.



The **Buds** of this tree start to open in early April. The tree is easily identified in the winter by the "onion" shape of the buds.



The **Fruit** of this tree occurs in clusters and starts green and changes to red by mid-September. Many birds will eat this in the fall and winter, but this fruit is poisonous to humans.



In the summer **leaves** are green and have wavy edges and curl upward. In the fall the leaves are a bright red. Leaf arrangement is opposite, simple leaves, margin is entire, leaf shape is ovate, and venation is pinnate



Family Name: Cornaceae

Size: 35-40 feet high and live up to about 80 years

Habitat: Flowering Dogwoods grow best in moist soils, but will grow in drier habitats. They like to grow in the shade of larger trees

Life History: the common name comes from England when years ago, people would use the bark of the bloodtwig dogwood to bathe mangy dogs.

The Flowering Dogwood is seriously threatened by the fungus **Discula Destructiva**, or dogwood anthracnose.



The white parts of the **flower** are not petals they are bracts. Bracts are initially joined at the red to purple tip. The bracts also surround the numerous perfect, yellowish flowers. Flowers are usually in bloom for 2-4 weeks between March and June

What is a "bract"?

- A. A type of pistil
- B. A type of flower
- C. A modified or specialized leaf
- D. A special name for anthers
- E. A bud on the branch

References

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