

Red Dogwood



It arguably may be the most beautiful of the native American flowering trees. A

simply breathtaking small specimen tree when in bloom, featuring large yet dainty pinkish-red blooms in spring and excellent wide-spreading form; extremely fussy, requires rich, well-drained acidic soil and adequate precipitation, best with some shelter

Cornus florida var rubra

- **Use:** Aptly named, the red dogwood brings a splash of color to the seasons. Red blooms cover the tree in spring, and reddish-purple leaves as well as glossy red fruit adorn it in the fall. This dogwood is a great landscape addition near utility lines, next to buildings, or near patios. It is also an excellent contrast tree for larger evergreen backgrounds.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Part sun-shade. Best when planted under other trees, but not too deep a shade or poor flowering. Moist, well-drained soil, but not soggy. Use slow release fertilizer two times a year. Water regularly, when top 3 in. of soil is dry.
- **Growth:** Grow to a height of 15-25' and a spread of 15-25' with a low-branching, broadly-pyramidal but somewhat flat-topped habit.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 5-9; Tree
- **Foliage:** Deciduous ; Features dark green leaves that are oval or ovate and 3–6" long. They turn reddish-purple in the fall.
- **Flower:** Blooms in April and May, with red bracts that resemble petals nestled around a compact group of flowers. Produces glossy red fruit that ripen in the fall. The true flower parts in the center of the bracts are less showy. The fruit is a favorite food of many songbirds, so be sure to plant near a window and you'll be able to pull up a chair and watch the bluebirds, cardinals, robins, and mockingbirds dig in. Chipmunks and squirrels also gather the fruits, and dainty little spring azure butterflies use Dogwoods as a food source, too.