


**flowering dogwood** *Cornaceae* *Cornus florida* L.  symbol:  
 COFL2

**vTree**

**Leaf:** Opposite, simple, 3 to 5 inches long, oval in shape with an entire or slightly wavy margin, arcuately veined, green above and slightly paler below.

**Flower:** Species is monoecious; very small and inconspicuous tight cluster, but surrounded by 4 very showy, large, white (occasionally pink) bracts, 2 inches in diameter, appearing in mid-spring.

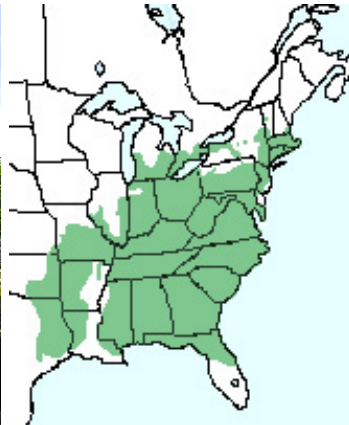
**Fruit:** A shiny, oval red drupe, 1/4 to 1/2 inch long, in clusters of 3 to 5, maturing in fall.

**Twig:** Slender, green or purple (purple on sunlit side), later turning gray, often with a glaucous bloom. The terminal flower buds are clove-shaped, vegetative buds resemble a dull cat claw.

**Bark:** Gray and smooth when young, turning very scaly to finely blocky.

**Form:** A small tree with a short trunk that branches low, producing a slightly rounded to flat-topped crown. Branches are opposite, and assume a "candelabra" appearance.

**Looks like:** [silky dogwood](#) - [blackhaw](#) - [alternate-leaf dogwood](#) - [kousa dogwood](#)



**Additional Range Information:**  
*Cornus florida* is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting flowering dogwood.](#)

**External Links:**  
[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)  
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)  
[Landowner Factsheet](#)  
[USDA Plants Database](#)  
[Horticulture](#)

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