

# Flowering Dogwood

## *Cornus florida*

### The Dogwood Family (Cornaceae)

**Basic Description:** Short tree with opposite, deciduous leaves, large white or pink flowers, alligator skin-like bark and small shiny red drupes.

**Interesting Facts:** Powder from the twigs and wood used as a tooth whitener, and the bark used as a treatment for malaria. A red dye can be made from the roots and a black dye from the bark. Host to the Spring Azure butterfly.

**Flower:** Appearing in mid-spring, the flowers are in small green tight clusters surrounded by 4 showy large white or pink bracts, 2" in diameter.

**Fruit:** A shiny, oval red drupe, .25 - .5" long, in clusters of 3 to 5.

**Wildlife Value:** Drupes are a common food source for birds as well as small and large mammals. Attracts native bees and beneficial insects.

**Habitat:** Deciduous woods, thickets, streams, river banks, shaded areas.

#### LEAF TYPE

SIMPLE



#### POLLINATOR

INSECTS



#### WILDLIFE VALUE

MEDIUM

