

Flowering Dogwood



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

FLOWERING DOGWOOD

Cornus florida L.

FAMILY: Cornaceae

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



SIZE: small tree, up to 30 feet



LEAF: simple leaves up to 5 inches long; green above and pale underneath; brilliant red fall color



FLOWER: tiny and green in the center of four large white or pinkish bracts that look like petals



FRUIT: red berry-like fruits in clusters



BARK: gray-brown to reddish and rough with many square plates



Where to Look

Dogwoods grow in the understory or at the forest edge. They are often found under oak, hickory, poplar, sweetgum and pines.

Importance to Humans

Dogwoods have strong wood which is used to make tool handles.

Importance to Wildlife

Many species of birds eat the fruit of dogwoods and squirrels will feed on the flower buds.