

Native Plant of the Month

Flowering Dogwood



The Flowering Dogwood is the state tree and the state flower of Virginia. The flowers are inconspicuous and tight clustered, surrounded by four very showy, large white (occasionally pink) notched, petal-like objects called bracts, 2-inches in diameter, appearing in mid-spring. The fruit is a shiny, bright red, oval, berry-like cluster, ripening in October.

The wood was once used for textile shuttles and spoons and for handles and mallets, but is seldom harvested today. Although the fruits are poisonous if eaten by humans, more than 35 species of birds and many large and small mammals are known to eat them. Deer and rabbits browse the foliage and twigs.

A mature Dogwood can commonly grow to 20 to 30 feet tall and six to eight inches in diameter.

The Flowering Dogwood is often planted as an attractive ornamental tree.

