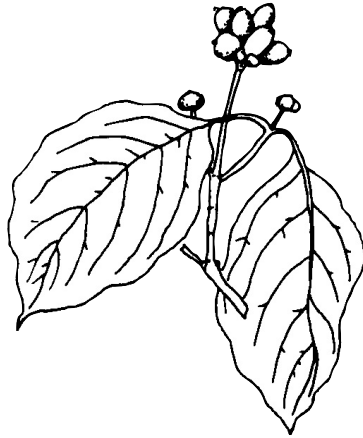


## Leaf Identification



White Flowering Dogwood  
(*Cornus florida*)

**White flowering dogwood** is a small tree usually not reaching higher than 25', although it can reach 40' with a spread equal to its height. Branching begins low on the tree in a horizontal, tiered arrangement. The rounded crown may spread wider than the tree is tall, giving it a flat-topped appearance. The showy spring blossoms are not in fact flowers, but four white petal-like “bracts” (modified leaves) that occur by age six. These are followed by dark green summer leaves that turn red-purple in fall. The fall leaf color will be less brilliant in the shade. Glossy, bright red  $\frac{1}{3}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ " berry-like fruits ripen in fall and persist on the tree long into winter. The fruit is a favorite of birds, squirrels, deer, and other mammals. Deer, beaver, and rabbits browse the foliage, which also provides good cover for many wildlife species.

Flowering dogwood grows best in cool, acidic loam. It can tolerate heavier or lighter sandy soils if they are moist and well-drained and in full sun or partial shade. Proper site selection and regular care will help keep your dogwood healthy. This native tree grows at medium rate.