



Virginia Tech Dendrology

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

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 dove-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.

More Information: Fall Color - Wood - Landowner Factsheet

External Links: USDAFS Silvics of North America - USDAFS FEIS Silvics - USDA Plants Database - Horticulture Information - USDAFS Forest Products Lab

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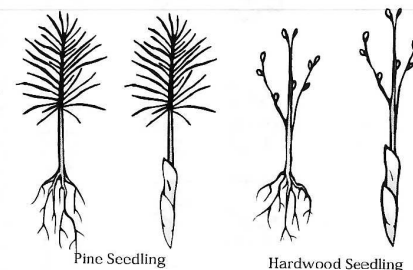
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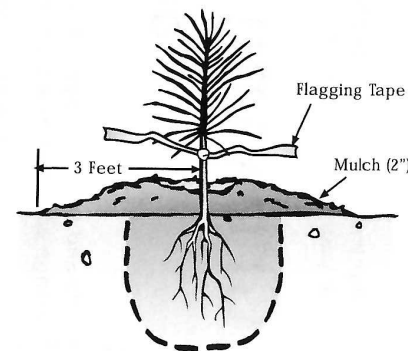


How to Plant and Care for a Seedling

Step 1. Keep roots cool and moist until planting. For individual seedlings, wrap the roots in a moist paper towel and insert them into a plastic bag (roots only). Store seedlings in an unheated basement or refrigerator. Do not let the roots freeze.



Step 2. Find a spot with plenty of sun that is away from your house and not under electric or phone wires. Clear all grass within three feet of the seedling. (Young trees do not like to grow in the grass.) Dig a hole slightly deeper than the roots so that they do not bend in the planting hole. Do not plant the seedling any deeper than the first green needles or bud.



Step 3. Put some garden mulch, pine straw, or leaves in the three-foot area around the tree to keep grass from growing back. Mark your tree with flagging or a small stake so that a lawn mower does not cut it. (Young trees are hard to see). Give your tree water when it gets hot and dry outside.

Note: Your seedling will grow slowly the first year. Do not plant seedlings closer than 10 feet from each other. The best time to plant a seedling is while it is still dormant and the ground is not frozen (February through April).

