



## Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida L.*)

The dogwood has the distinction of being North Carolina's state flower.

**Location:** The dogwood grows throughout North Carolina, usually under the larger forest trees.

**Bark:** The bark is dark red-brown, dividing into small scaly blocks on older trees.

**Leaves:** The leaves are opposite of one another and are 3 to 5 inches long. The veins curve like a bow and tend to parallel the margin of the leaves.

**Flowers:** Most people think that the "flower" of the dogwood are the four large, white (sometimes pink) petal-like bracts that are notched at the end; however, the true flower is the greenish-white or yellowish compact head in the center of the bracts.

**Fruit:** The bright red oval fruit (a drupe) is produced in tight clusters. It ripens in October.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood. The red wood is hard, heavy, strong and very close-grained.

**Mature Height:** 10 to 20 feet tall (can reach 40 feet)

**Mature Diameter:** 4 to 6 inches (can reach 12 to 18 inches)

**Uses:** Textile shuttles and spools and for handles and mallets.

**Reference:** Holmes, J. S., & Holmes, J. S. (2015). *Common forest trees of North Carolina: A pocket manual*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Forest Service.