



LEAVES HAVE SMOOTH EDGES

LEAVES AND BRANCHES ORIGINATE ACROSS FROM EACH OTHER

DOGWOOD


CORNUS FLORIDA


The white “petals” of this native, small maturing tree are modified leaves (called bracts) and the actual flowers are small yellow/green clusters in the middle of the bracts. In the fall, leaves turn bright red. The bark of dogwood is pebble-like and is a distinctive characteristic. The wood is extremely hard and is used for handles and golf club heads. In Charlotte, this tree grows best as an understory species, as trees in full sun tend to have more health issues.


 **TYPE:**
Deciduous


 **SIZE:**
30 feet high
30 feet wide


 **SUN:**
Part shade to moderate sun

 **FLOWERS:**
Small, green/yellow in center of white bracts

 **USDA ZONES:**
5-9

 **ID TIPS:**
Bark resembles small pebbles; leaves have smooth edges and parallel veins. Leaves, twigs and branches are opposite (originate across from each other).

 **WILDLIFE VALUE:**
The bright red fruit is eaten by birds and a variety of mammals (chipmunks, foxes, squirrels, skunks, rabbits, deer, beavers, black bears). Foliage and twigs are eaten by deer and rabbits.

 **INTERESTING FACT:**
State flower of North Carolina and Virginia

