



## **Cornus florida**

**Family: Cornaceae**

### **Flowering Dogwood**

The genus *Cornus* contains about 40 species which grow in the northern temperate regions of the world. The name *cornus* is derived from the Latin name of the type species *Cornus mas* L., Cornelian-cherry of Europe, from the word for horn (*cornu*), referring to the hardness of the wood.

*Cornus alternifolia*- **Alternate Leaf Dogwood**, Blue Dogwood, Green-Osier, Pagoda, Pagoda Cornel, Pagoda Dogwood, Pigeonberry, Purple Dogwood, Umbrella-tree

*Cornus drummondii*-**Roughleaf Dogwood**, Rough-leaved Dogwood

*Cornus florida*- Arrowwood, Boxwood, Bunchberry, Cornel, Dogwood (used bark to treat dog's mange), False Boxwood, Florida Dogwood, **Flowering Dogwood**, White Cornel

*Cornus glabrata*-Brown Dogwood, Flowering Dogwood, Mountain Dogwood, Pacific Dogwood, **Smooth Dogwood**, Western Flowering Dogwood

*Cornus nuttallii*-California Dogwood, Flowering Dogwood, Mountain Dogwood, **Pacific Dogwood**, Western Dogwood, Western Flowering Dogwood

*Cornus occidentalis*-**Western Dogwood**

*Cornus racemosa*-Blue-fruit Dogwood, **Gray Dogwood**, Stiffcornel, Stiff Cornel Dogwood, Stiff Dogwood, Swamp Dogwood

*Cornus rugosa*-**Roundleaf Dogwood**

*Cornus sessilis*-**Blackfruit Dogwood**, Miners Dogwood

*Cornus stolonifera*-American Dogwood, California Dogwood, Creek Dogwood, Kinnikinnik, Red Dogwood, **Red-Osier Dogwood**, Red-panicked Dogwood, Redstem Dogwood, Squawbush, Western Dogwood

*Cornus stricta*-Bluefruit Dogwood, Stiffcornel, Stiffcornel Dogwood, **Swamp Dogwood**

The following is for Flowering Dogwood:

#### **Distribution**

North America, from Maine to New York, Ontario, Michigan, Illinois and Missouri south to Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas east to Florida.

#### **The Tree**

Flowering dogwood is well known for its white flower clusters with large white bracts opening in the spring. The fall foliage is bright red. It is a slow growing tree which attains a height of 40 feet and a

diameter of 16 inches. The bark looks like reddish brown alligator skin. It grows best along streams and in well drained soils. clusters. The fruits are large bean-like structures, resembling cigars. Catalpa trees can reach 100 ft (30 m) in height and 3 ft (1 m) in diameter. The bark is thick, with reddish-brown scales.

## The Wood

### General

The sapwood of dogwood is wide and creamy in color, while the heartwood is reddish brown to brown, sometimes streaked in white. The wood has a fine, uniform texture with a hard compact interlocked grain.

### Mechanical Properties (2-inch standard)

	Specific gravity	MOE x10 <sup>6</sup> lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	MOR x10 <sup>3</sup> lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	Compression		WML <sup>a</sup> in-lbf/in <sup>3</sup>	Hardness lbf	Shear x10 <sup>3</sup> lbf/in <sup>2</sup>
				Parallel x10 <sup>3</sup> lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	Perpendicular x10 <sup>3</sup> lbf/in <sup>2</sup>			
Green	.64	1.18	8.80	3.64	1.03	21.0	1410	1.52
Dry	.80	1.53	14.9	7.70	1.92	19.5	2150	2.26

<sup>a</sup>WML = Work to maximum load.  
<sup>b</sup>Reference (98).  
<sup>c</sup>Reference (59).

### Drying and Shrinkage

Type of shrinkage	Percentage of shrinkage (green to final moisture content)		
	0% MC	6% MC	20% MC
Tangential	11.3	9.4	3.9
Radial	7.1	5.9	2.5
Volumetric	19.9	16.6	6.9

<sup>a</sup>Birch shrinks considerably during drying. References: 0% MC (98), 6% and 20% MC (90).

### Kiln Drying Schedules<sup>a</sup>

Condition	Stock				
	4/4, 5/4, 6/4	8/4	10/4	12/4	16/4
Standard	T6-C3	T3-C2	-	-	-

<sup>a</sup>References (6, 86).

**Working Properties:** Dogwood can be sawn, planed and turned easily and takes a glossy finish.

**Durability:** Susceptible to deterioration, due to large percentage of heartwood.

**Preservation:** No information available at this time.

**Uses:** Weaving shuttles, spool and bobbin heads, small pulleys, skewers, golf club heads, tool handles, charcoal for gunpowder, red dye from bark of roots, stem bark has medicinal properties.

**Toxicity:** No information at this time.

### Additional Reading and References Cited (in parentheses)

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  4. Markwardt, L.J. and T.R.C. Wilson. 1935. Strength and related properties of woods grown in the United States. USDA Forest Service, Tech. Bull. No. 479. USGPO, Washington, DC.
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  8. Summitt, R. and A. Sliker. 1980. CRC handbook of materials science. Volume 4, wood. CRC Press, Inc., Boca Raton, FL. 459 pp.
- Harry A. Alden, 1994