



## FLOWERING DOGWOOD *Cornus florida* L.

**F**lowering dogwood is an unusually beautiful shrub or small tree and occurs naturally only in York County. Planted specimens generally are only hardy in the southern and coastal areas of the state. Unfortunately flowering dogwood is under serious threat from Dogwood anthracnose *Discula destructiva*, a non-native fungal disease.

Flowering dogwood reaches a height of 12–20 feet. The **bark** is gray and smooth on younger stems; on older trees it becomes black and finely blocky, as if broken into small squares. The **leaves** are opposite, entire, ovate to elliptic, bright green and smooth above, pale green with hairs on the veins beneath. They are 3–6 inches long.

The **flowers** are conspicuous and appear early in the spring. They are greenish-white or yellowish and are arranged in dense umbels surrounded

by 4 large, white, petal-like bracts which give the appearance of large spreading flowers. The **fruit** is a bright red, ellipsoid drupe about ½ inch long that occurs in clusters.

The **twigs** are smooth, greenish and angular. The buds are covered by two valve-like scales. The flower buds are large and button-shaped.

The **wood** is hard and close-textured. In the past, it was widely used for the manufacture of shuttles for textile weaving. It is not used commercially in Maine due to its rarity.



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Flowering Dogwood Circumference: 35" Height: 37' Crown Spread: 30' Location: Portland

