

PLANT SALE EVENT DATES

Wednesday, April 4, 7–9 pm • Spring Plant Sale Preview

Lecture. UDBG members: \$5; Nonmembers: \$10

Location: The Commons, Townsend Hall. Illustrated talk about plants featured at the plant sale.

Wednesday, April 11, 4:30–6:00 pm • Guided Walk of 2018 Plant Sale Highlights. UDBG Friends Members: \$5;

Nonmembers: \$10; Minimum: 10; Maximum: 25.

Location: Meet inside brick wall around South Greenhouse, outside UDBG office

Wednesday, April 25, 4:30–6:00 pm • Patron Plant Sale

and Reception, RSVP required. An evening to thank those who have contributed \$185 and above to support UDBG's Student Programs, vital to our functioning.

Evening includes knowledgeable plant people, refreshments, private plant sale this evening only, and first crack at all other plant offerings. Call 302-831-0153 or email mzoehrer@udel.edu to attend.

Thursday, April 26, 3–6 pm • UDBG Members only, discount this day only (see below for details)

Friday, April 27, 3–6 pm • General Public

Saturday, April 28, 9:30 am–4 pm • General Public

To register for lecture or walk, please email botanicgardens@udel.edu or phone 302-831-2531.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The plant sale is organized by the UDBG staff, UDBG Friends, and dedicated volunteers. Major credit cards, checks, and cash are accepted. The sale is located inside the fenced-in area across from Fischer Greenhouse on UD's south campus. Please drive a large enough vehicle to fit your plant purchases.

Benefits of Membership

The UDBG Friends member-only day to shop is Thursday, April 26, 3–6 pm. On this day only: **10% off** entire purchase.

Catalog on the Web

The plant sale catalog is available at: www.canr.udel.edu/udbg/. Additional plants are available for purchase on each sale day in limited quantity. A list of these plants can be found on UDBG's website.



Photo: Doris Miklitz

DOGWOODS (*CORNUS*)

John Frett

DOGWOODS are garden aristocrats that are recognized by all, at least the large-flowered types, like our native flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*. The name dogwood is thought to derive from the hardwood that was used as a dagger, or skewer, for cooking. Thus, the name dagwood later became dogwood. (And I thought it was because of the "bark" of the tree; sorry, I could not resist). The small trees are easily recognized by the large inflorescence, or flower cluster, with four large, petal-like structures, which are most commonly white. These structures are actually bracts and not petals at all. The bracts serve to highlight the cluster of 15–20 small flowers at the center, which attract pollinators. Each of these true flowers has the potential to produce one fruit, typically bright red in the fall. The attractive red fruit is edible by wildlife. The fruit of our native *C. florida* is a major food source for migrating birds on their trek south in the fall. Like so many red-fruited plants, there are also yellow-fruited selections in many species. Dogwoods are also one of the first trees to add a vibrant autumn color to the landscape. Most turn a spectacular, glowing red, matching the fruit in some cases.

Cornus florida is the most common of the large flowered dogwoods. In woodlands, it grows as an understory tree, often sparse in foliage, and flowers and fruits to a limited extent. When grown in garden settings with more light, it is a much denser and more vigorous plant, with significantly more flowers and fruits. What it can't tolerate is dry soils, so it grows best in light shade, protected from the afternoon, summer sun. Flowering dogwood is also prone to a few diseases, particularly anthracnose and mildew. Both of these foliar diseases can cause diseased leaves that look unsightly and may cause premature defoliation but rarely plant death. Plants grow best where there is good air circulation and in eastern exposures, so the foliage dries quickly in the morning. More recent introductions are selected specifically for disease resistance and exceptional display qualities. There are more cultivars of *C. florida* than any other species. Weeping, fastigiate, red flowers, variegated leaves, yellow fruit, large fruit, colored stems, even ground cover selections exist. Most are restricted to the collectors' garden but I have assembled a selection of a few of the extraordinary selections for this sale.

Cornus kousa, the Chinese dogwood is nearly as popular. It is similar in most ways including culture, mature size, and ornamental features. It differs slightly in form, lacking the strong horizontal branching of *C. florida*. It also flowers about two weeks later than *C. florida*, starting in mid to late May,





(above left to right) *Cornus kousa* 'Rutpink' Scarlet Fire Dogwood bracts, edible fruit with fall foliage, and abundance of floral bracts.

All *Cornus* images courtesy of Tom Molnar except where noted

significantly extending the flowering time. The white bracts are the same size but come to a point rather than ending in a notch. For the most part, the pink-flowered selections are not as consistent but new selections are breaking that barrier. Fruits are red, aggregated together in a raspberry-like structure, and suitable for consumption by birds and people, with a sweet flavor and custard-like consistency when ripe. Chinese dogwood also offers a multicolored, exfoliating bark, separating it from all the other dogwoods mentioned. The bark is of particular interest in the winter when the leaves are off the tree, providing an unobstructed view of the stems. *C. kousa* is much more resistant to the diseases that afflict *C. florida*. Like *C. florida*, there are many cultivars available of *C. kousa* for the plant collector.

Another species that has confounded taxonomists is *C. elliptica*, the so-called evergreen Chinese dogwood. Originally called *C. kousa* variety *angustata*, then listed as *C. capitata* variety *angustata*, and then *C. angustata* (still used frequently in the nursery trade). It is similar in most characteristics to *C. kousa* but tends to retain most of its foliage through the winter, yet is hardy to USDA zone 6 (-5°F). Flowers are slightly smaller but appear at the same time as *C. kousa*. The fruit is also edible to both wildlife and people. In the autumn, leaves turn reddish purple and persist until spring when they drop as the new growth begins to emerge. Regardless of the name, this species is a unique addition to our landscapes offering winter interest that most dogwoods lack and a more compact habit.

Over three decades ago, Dr. Elwin Orton at Rutgers University recognized the great attributes of *C. florida* and *C. kousa* and started the first breeding program to combine the best of both species. The result is *Cornus ×rutgersensis*. This hybrid species has great hybrid vigor, with faster growth than its parents. The primary accomplishment of this species is the integration



of disease resistance into a plant similar to *C. florida*. Plants are typically white flowered but pink cultivars exist, as do variegated foliated selections. The plants flower later than *C. florida* but earlier than *C. kousa*. They have the same outstanding fall color but seldom produce fruit.

Once you are on a roll to enhance vigor, it is hard to stop, so breeders looked west to the Pacific coast and *C. nutallii*, the Pacific dogwood. *C. nutallii* frequently has six, rather than four large bracts and larger inflorescences overall. It was a natural to think of hybridizing *C. kousa* with *C. nutallii* to further enhance the floral display. The result is a plant with varying numbers of bracts and larger inflorescences that is quite disease resistant. One particular hybrid, utilizing a pink flowered *C. kousa*, resulted in a spectacular new cultivar, *C. ×elwinortonii* 'KN144-2', better known as Rosy Teacups® dogwood. Similar crosses of *C. nutallii* with *C. florida* also exist.

See next pages for a select list of large flowered dogwood cultivars. All have significant features that make them standouts and all have outstanding floral display, good disease resistance, and fall interest. Most are small trees well suited to the scale of small urban landscapes. All appeal to early pollinators and most are a good source of food for wildlife in the fall. Use them for shade, as specimens, even as group plantings in larger landscapes.

The name dogwood is thought to derive from the hardwood that was used as a dagger, or skewer, for cooking. Thus, the name dogwood later became dogwood.



Cornus x elwinortonii 'KN144-2' Rosy Teacups® Dogwood



Cornus x rutgersensis 'Rutgan' Celestial® Dogwood

Photo: Rick Darke

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size, Plant Size	Price
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Cornus elliptica 'Elsbry'
Empress of China™ Dogwood 15–25 ○●☞ 1 g, 1–2 \$35
(Syn. *Cornus angustata*) Fall comes and goes but this dogwood holds on to its leaves, something that no other dogwood in the trade offers. Not really evergreen, since the leaves take on a reddish purple hue and in northern gardens, may lose some foliage. Prolific, early summer flowers have four, petal-like, white bracts. A compact plant, with raspberry-like red fruit, edible to wildlife and people. ♡

Cornus x elwinortonii 'KN144-2'
Rosy Teacups® Dogwood 25 ○●☞ 5 g, 3–4 \$75
New on the scene, the light to medium pink bracts have more intense color marginally. Inflorescences are 3–4 inches across and the bracts are turned up slightly creating a teacup-like shape. Mid to late spring flowers last up to 3 weeks or more, depending on weather conditions. Fall foliage shades of red; fruit is sparse. ♡

Cornus x elwinortonii 'KN4-43'
Starlight® Dogwood 25–30 ○●☞ 7 g, 6–7 \$95
This hybrid has inherited the huge, 4–5 inches in diameter bract from the Pacific dogwood parent. Abundant flowers almost completely cover the tree. The inflorescence is white, with 4–6 floral bracts per inflorescence. Edible, red raspberry-like fruit is abundant just prior to the onset of red fall foliage. ♡

Cornus florida 'Appalachian Joy'
Dogwood 25–30 ○●☞ 5 g, 4–6 \$75
Our native dogwood is a great plant as a species but this cultivar scales new heights. The stunning white bracts are much larger than the species. Good mildew resistance, striking red fruit for birds, and consistently red fall foliage round out its excellent attributes. N ♡

Cornus florida 'Comco No. 1'
Cherokee Brave® Dogwood 15–25 ○●☞ 5 g, 4–6 \$75
Like the quest for the holy grail, breeders search for the ultimate pink/red-bracted dogwood; they may have found it with this cultivar. It has dark pink to red bracts that fade to white at the center of the inflorescence. Combined with red fall fruit and foliage, this plant is a must-have specimen. Mature plants have a rounded habit and good disease resistance. N ♡

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size, Plant Size	Price
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Cornus florida 'Pumpkin Patch'
Dogwood 15–25 ○●☞ 7 g, 2–3 \$95
I was amazed when I first saw this plant. Not because of the stunning dark pink bracts in early to mid spring. Not because of the bright red fruit in fall, which is better than most. The source of my amazement was the stunning golden orange fall color, unique among dogwoods. New stem growth retains orange coloration throughout winter. N ♡

Cornus kousa 'Kristin Lipka's Variegated Weeper'
Dogwood 7–9 ○●☞ 7 g, 3–4 \$95
One of several pendulous cultivars, this selection has strongly weeping branches and variegated foliage. Leaves have a green center and undulating, cream-colored margins that turn pinkish red in the fall. Flowers are white in the late spring and early summer, facing out, providing a better view of the bracts. Weeping habit perfect cascading over a low wall or down a slope. ♡

Cornus kousa var. *chinensis* 'Madi-II'
Mandarin Jewel™ Dogwood 20–25 ○●☞ 5 g, 4–6 \$75
Mandarin Jewel is named for the pumpkin-yellow colored fruit, distinct from any other dogwood. The edible fruits appear as pendulous jewels dangling from the branches, as the leaves turn yellow-orange in fall. The large, white inflorescences are prolific in the late spring–early summer. ♡

Cornus kousa 'Rutpink'
Scarlet Fire® Dogwood 25 ○●☞ 5 g, 6–7 \$75
One of the newest Chinese dogwood introductions from Tom Molnar at Rutgers University, backed by 40+ years of breeding by Elwin Orton, sets a new standard for bract color. To date, no other selection is as consistently dark pink-bracted, with fuchsia coloration at maturity. Inflorescences develop in late spring and can last up to 8 weeks. Fall foliage turns shades of red with striking 1 inch globe fruits. ♡

Cornus x rutgersensis 'Rutdan'
Celestial® Dogwood 25–30 ○●☞ 10 g, 10–12 \$75
An original Orton dogwood cross that remains popular in the nursery trade today. The profuse, large white inflorescences, with overlapping creamy-white bracts, create an unmistakable display mid spring. While this cultivar lacks fruit, it does produce a consistent, red-purple fall foliage display, and with good resistance to powdery mildew and anthracnose, is a vigorous performer in the landscape. ♡



Cornus ×rutgersensis 'Rutgan'
Stellar Pink® Dogwood

Cornus florida 'Pumpkin Patch'
Dogwood

Photo: Bob Lyons

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size, Plant Size	Price
<i>Cornus ×rutgersensis</i> 'Rutgan'	Stellar Pink® Dogwood	25–30	☉	☕	7 g, 4–6	\$75
Overlapping, large, blush-pink bracts set this selection apart from others. The mid spring flowers are more uniformly colored than Chinese dogwood cultivars producing a superior flower display. This cultivar is disease resistant and a vigorous grower that is taller than wide at maturity. ♡						



Cornus ×elwintonii 'KN4-43' Starlight® Dogwood

QUICK REFERENCE FOR CULTURAL SYMBOLS

All plant heights listed in catalog are in feet. No inches are used.

In order to help you select the right plant for your gardening needs, we have included the symbols below to indicate plant needs. These are broad guidelines, as plants can often withstand a wider range of conditions. Plants that prefer part shade may grow well in full sun if there is adequate soil moisture during hot, dry spells. Similarly, plants that prefer moist soils may grow well in drier sites if some shade is provided, especially midday.

Light Recommendations

☉ full sun ● partial sun ● full shade

Soil Moisture Recommendations

☕ dry soil ☕ moist soil ☕ wet soil

🦋 = Lepidoptera use plant as Larval (caterpillar) food source

🐦 = Birds utilize plant as food source & nest building material

👤 = People consume plant fruit or leaves

Native

“N” after the plant description indicates plants are native to the Eastern U.S. We consider cultivars of native plants to be native, regarding them as selections from variants in the population.