



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Flowering Dogwood
Scientific Name: *Cornus florida*
Plant Family: Cornaceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: The flowering dogwood is a small tree growing to about 10 meters (30' to 35').

Leaves: simple, oppositely arranged, deciduous, and 10 to 16 cm (4" to 6") long by 5 to 8 cm (2" to 3") wide. The ovate shaped leaves usually have slightly fuzzy, dark green upper surfaces while the underneath surface is paler and hairy. The leaf base is acute and the tip is pointed. The leaf margin is smooth.

Flowers: tiny and have 4 large white, occasionally pink, petal-like bracts

Bark: Grayish-brown, thick and rough with angular scales that appear as small, pebbly blocks.

Habitat: Flowering dogwood grows in the well-drained, light upland soils to deep, moist soils along streams and lower slopes

Leaf/bud break timing:

Bloom time:

Information source: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (www.ifas.ufl.edu)

Did you know? Flowering dogwood is a very popular tree often used as an ornamental. You might find non native cultivars with different colored flowers (red and pink). Many species of birds and mammals browse the fruits, leaves, and twigs. The white wood is hard, tough, close-grained, and good for making tool handles.



Photograph by Robert H. Mohlenbrock
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Photograph by John A. Knouse, courtesy of Wikipedia

Phenological observation:

- First Flower: Report first flowers opening (this is before leafing).
- Budburst/First Leaf

Distribution Area:

