

PLANT HEALTH CARE REPORT



Flowering Dogwood

Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is a small native tree that provides year-round interest in the landscape. It has showy white, pink or red bracts (modified leaves) in spring and red fruit in summer. Deep green leaves change to burgundy red in the fall while unique branch structure and block-patterned bark stand out in the winter.



Cornus florida
'Cherokee Chief'

Flowering dogwood thrives in areas with morning sun and afternoon shade. Soils should be well drained, slightly acidic, and rich in organic matter. Nitrogen and manganese deficiencies are common in infertile soils, especially those that are alkaline or poorly drained. The shallow root system is sensitive to drought and competes poorly with turfgrass for water and nutrients. For this reason, flowering dogwood performs best where there is a layer of mulch over the root zone.

Mulch also protects the trunk from wounds inflicted by mowers and string trimmers—wounds that often lead to serious disease and insect problems. The most serious disease of flowering dogwood is anthracnose, which causes blighting of flowers, leaves, twigs, and branches. Left untreated, anthracnose

can kill flowering dogwood in as little as two years. Other diseases and pest of this tree include powdery mildew, leaf spots, flower blights, canker diseases, Phytophthora root rot, and borers.

Monitoring and Treatment Considerations for Flowering Dogwood

Late winter

Remove dead, dying, diseased, and broken branches. Expose and inspect root collar for problems. Add mulch as necessary.

Early spring

Apply first fungicide treatment to prevent anthracnose, leaf spots, and flower blight. If soil is poorly drained, correct and make drenches to prevent Phytophthora root rot.

Mid-spring

Apply second fungicide treatment to prevent anthracnose, leaf spots, and flower blight. Monitor for dogwood borer and caterpillar defoliators; treat as needed.

Late spring

Apply third fungicide treatment to prevent anthracnose, leaf spots, powdery mildew, and flower blight. Monitor for dogwood borer and caterpillar defoliators; treat as needed. Sample soil for nutrient and pH levels.

Early summer

Apply additional fungicide treatment to prevent powdery mildew. Monitor for dogwood borer; treat as needed. Monitor irrigation and soil moisture to minimize water stress and prevent root disease. Reduce or remove branches to promote appropriate structure. Remove watersprouts as needed.

Midsummer

Apply additional fungicide treatment to prevent powdery mildew. Monitor irrigation and soil moisture to minimize water stress and prevent root disease. Remove watersprouts as needed.

Late summer

Monitor irrigation and soil moisture to minimize water stress and prevent root disease. Remove watersprouts as needed.

Early fall

Monitor irrigation and soil moisture to minimize water stress and prevent root disease. If soil is poorly drained, correct and make drenches to prevent Phytophthora root rot. Expose and inspect root collar for problems; add mulch as needed. Fertilize, adjust pH, and amend soil according to soil analysis.