PLANT FACT SHEET

Use with caution

This plant can be harmful if it is eaten raw, in large amounts or without the right preparation. Read the whole fact sheet before use.

Cornus florida Linn.

GENUS *Cornus* **FAMILY** Cornaceae

COMMON NAMES Flowering dogwood

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

Caution: The fruit are bitter and probably should not be eaten in large quantities.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows 4-12 m tall. The bark is red-brown to blackish. It cracks into small square plates. The leaves are oval and 10 cm long by 6 cm wide. They taper to a point and do not have teeth. They are dark green and smooth above and whitish and softly hairy underneath. The leaves turn bright red in the autumn. The flowers are small and greenish in dense half round clusters. There are 4 white to pink bracts around each cluster. These bracts have a notch at the tip. The fruit are small and red and in clusters. These separate when ripe.

HABITAT

It is native to eastern North America. It grows in acid soils in woods. It will grow in most soils. It is resistant to frost but damaged by drought. It suits hardness zones 5-8. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds, cuttings, layering or grafting.

NOTES

There are about 45 Cornus species. The plant contains quinine.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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Sp. pl. 1:117. 1753

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c94f104f-81ba-49c4-989c-b336d732e0db