



Cornus florida: White Flowering Dogwood

Latin name: *Cornus florida* 'Weaver's White'

Common name: White Flowering Dogwood

Flowers: Handsome large white bracts at end of stems¹

Fruit or cones: Glossy red drupe⁷

Height & Width: 30' x 20'⁷

Type: Deciduous¹³

Wetland indicator category:** FACU¹⁴

Habit: Low branched tree, with horizontal spreading lines with layering producing a low topped crown.⁷

Texture: Medium⁷

Growth rate: Initially slow, medium when established¹

Light: Partial shade, full shade can be acceptable¹

Moisture: Well drained soil⁷

Soil: Slightly acidic⁷

Zones: 5⁷

Origin: Northern Florida⁷

Features: This native tree has year round pleasurable characteristics. Flowers appear April to May before the leaves develop allowing the viewer see a dotted white landscape. The bark has the texture of an alligator's back adding interest to the winter landscape, as well as having red drupes fruiting in the fall to add to this. These drupes also attract native birds increasing the biodiversity of the surrounding area. Weaver's White is a cultivar that performs especially well in the Deep South with notably larger foliage and more colorful white bracts than most other *Cornus* cultivars⁷.

Siting: It can be a very adaptable plant tolerating full sun and moist conditions, however it



performs best in partial shade and well drained soils. When planted in water laden soils or in inadequately watered full sun areas the tree may die⁷.

Care: Plant the tree in the hole so that the root flare is visible at the soil surface. The hole should be only as deep as the root ball and two to three times as wide as the root ball^{11, 15}. At planting, water the root ball daily with two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for two weeks, every other day for two months and then weekly until established¹⁵. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the trunk.^{11, 15}

Pests: This species is susceptible to a number of pests like the borer and other petal and leaf spots. It can be noted that symptoms of disease and insects appear when the plant is already being stressed by undesirable conditions.⁷

Author: Alexander Smolka

Sources 1-18 found on [Sources](#) page

Copyright © 2021 Clemson University

College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences

Clemson, SC

Contact Us

Emergency Preparedness
