

FLOWERING and KOUSA DOGWOOD

Cornus florida

The Native Americans took the arrival of the white flowers of Dogwoods as a signal that it was time to plant crops. Dogwoods do not grow very tall, usually under 30 feet. The flowers are beautiful in spring. Uniquely, the flowers are small green nuggets set in among four large showy white petal-like bracts. The bracts emerge over several weeks from small and greenish to full-size and whitish, often becoming pinkish as they age. A few wild trees and many cultivars have pink flower bracts. Autumn foliage is red to purplish red. The fruit turns bright scarlet and persist throughout the winter. The bark looks like alligator hide. Dogwoods transplant readily, grow in partial shade on moist soils, but natural population has been greatly depleted by anthracnose disease.



There are only a few pink and a few white Dogwoods in the cemetery. One mature Dogwood is on Elm Avenue on the hillside down from the chapel. There are 3 other mature ones, 2 on the hillside by the terraces and east of the chapel, and one is by the Atkins mausoleum. One new one was planted on Arbor Day 2007, by the mature one at the Atkins mausoleum. A Kousa Dogwood was planted at the center of the meditation area aside of the pond. The meditation area was built in 2008, by Michael Ferguson as an Eagle Scout project. The meditation area and the Dogwood were blessed at a dedication ceremony on Baber Day, Sept. 2008. One Dogwood was planted south of the 16th St. entrance by the neighboring homes on Arbor Day 2012. A mature Dogwood to the east of Baber Avenue died. It was replaced on Arbor Day 2013. The replacement died and was again replaced on Arbor Day 2014. In 2017, three Dogwood were planted-two on the lower level in Sec. 6 east of the pond and in Sec. 15 west of the pond; and the third off of Mt. Laurel Avenue close to were the 2013 Dogwood was planted. These three died and were replaced on Arbor Day 2018.

