

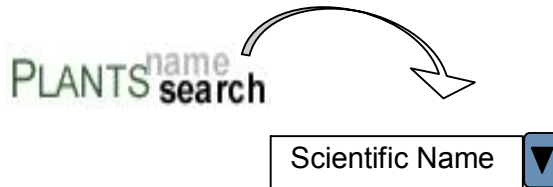
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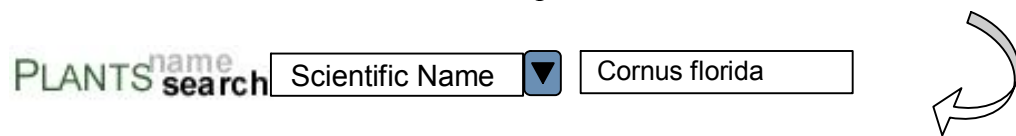
## ***Handout 2: Student Instructions for Native Species Web Quest***

1. Choose a plant native to the Southern Appalachian Region from the “Native Plant Species List.”
2. Open your Web browser, type <http://plants.usda.gov/>in the address bar, and press the “Enter” key on the computer keyboard (or activate the link).

- a. Find the drop down menu:



- b. Type the scientific name of the chosen native plant in the “name search” box.





- c. Click “Go,” or press the “Enter” key on the computer keyboard.
- d. Scroll down the page, below or beside the “Plant Profile.”
- e. Click on “PDF”



There are typically 3-5 pages of information in these USDA/NRCS Plant Guides. You will see a page that looks like this:

Information in the Guides includes:


- General Description:
  - bark
  - leaves
  - flowers
  - fruit
  - Key characteristics
- Distribution
- Habitat
- Adaptation
- Establishment
- Management
- Pests and Potential Problems
- Seeds and Plant Production


Plant Guide


### FLOWERING DOGWOOD

*Cornus florida* L.  
Plant symbol = COFL2

Contributed by: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



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Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Central North Carolina

**Alternate Names**  
American boxwood, arrowwood, *Benthamia florida*, boxwood, cornel, cornelian tree, *Cornus canadensis*, *Cornus florida* forma *pendula*, *Cornus florida* forma *pluribracteata*, *Cornus florida* forma *saxthocarpa*, *Cornus florida* var. *pendula*, *Cornus florida* var. *rosea*, *Cornus florida* var. *rubra*, *Cynoxylon floridum*, dogwood, eastern flowering dogwood, white cornel, white dogwood.

**WARNING: The fruit of flowering dogwood is poisonous to humans.**

**Uses**  
*Ethnobotanic:* Flowering dogwood root bark was used by Native Americans as a fever reducer, skin astringent, an antidiarrheal agent, and as a pain reliever for headaches, sores, and muscle inflammations. It was also used to counteract the effects of many poisons and as a general tonic for unspecified ailments. The bark was used for headache and backache relief, as a throat aid for hoarseness, and as an infusion for childhood diseases like worms and measles. Flowers were infused to reduce fever and relieve colic pains. Compound infusions of several plant parts were used as blood purifiers and as medicine for blood diseases like malaria.

*Ornamental:* The showy blossoms and attractive fall foliage make flowering dogwood a valuable ornamental species. It is commonly used in landscape and street plantings. As a garden tree, it is used for shade around patios, as a shrub border or backdrop species, or as single specimens in the lawn. It is best suited for plantings receiving less than full-day sun.

*Restoration:* Flowering dogwood is a *soil improver* because its leaf litter decomposes more rapidly than most other species. For this reason flowering dogwood has been planted on abandoned strip mines and used for urban forestry projects.

*Wildlife:* Flowering dogwood is a valuable food plant for wildlife because high calcium and fat contents make it palatable. Many bird types including songbirds, forest edge species, and upland game birds (e.g. wild turkey) consume the seeds. The eastern chipmunk, white-footed mouse, gray fox, gray squirrel, black bear, beaver, white-tailed deer, and skunk readily consume flowering dogwood seeds as well. Beaver, rabbits, and deer browse the leaves and sprouts of the plant. Flowering dogwood also provides shelter and habitat for many wildlife species.

*Wood production:* The wood of flowering dogwood has been harvested for the manufacture of tool handles, chiseloid, wheel spgs, hayforks, and pulleys. It is occasionally used to make specialty items like golf club heads, roller skate wheels, knitting needles, and spoons. The wood is hard, strong, and shock resistant, making it suitable for wood products that need to withstand rough use.

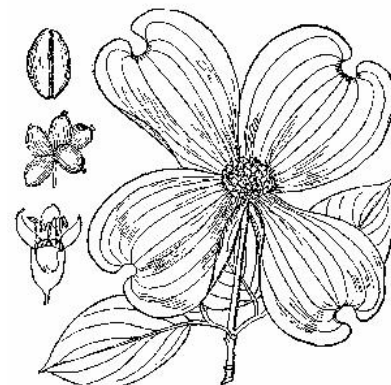
**Legal Status**  
Flowering dogwood is endangered in Maine, exploitably vulnerable in New York, and threatened in Vermont. Please consult the PLANTS Web site (<http://plants.usda.gov>) and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

3. Name and describe each species in general terms in field notebooks for the purpose of plant identification.
  - a. List the plant by common name first and scientific name in parentheses, e.g., flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
  - b. Give a general description of the plant and flower. Include information about the plant's habitat and growing season. Include a line drawing, which is also available on the USDA Plants Database Web site. Please refer to the sample entry (Handout 3) for complete example.)

Example:

*Flowering dogwood (Cornus florida) is native to the southeastern United States. The showy blossoms and attractive fall foliage make flowering dogwood a valuable ornamental species.*

*Flowering dogwood is a small deciduous tree, characterized by branches that spread wider than its height. Flowering dogwood is typically 15 to 45 ft. tall.*



**Flowering Dogwood  
(*Cornus florida*)**

*Source: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada. Vol. 2:664.*