

Dogwood Care

One of the most beautiful trees in the American landscape is the flowering dogwood. It is a four-season tree with its beautiful flowers in the spring, lovely foliage in the summer, bright red fall coloring, and interesting silhouette with exfoliating bark in the winter. Dogwoods make excellent under-story trees in a semi-shaded area, as a backdrop for azaleas or other shrubs, or as a specimen or accent near the terrace or patio.

Here are some tips to growing dogwoods:

- * The best location for a dogwood is a well-drained, slightly-acidic site in partial shade. Those planted in full sun or deep shade do not grow or flower as well as those grown in partial shade. If a full sun site is selected, plant in a northern or eastern exposure to protect them from afternoon sun.
- * When planting, incorporate 3 inches of organic material, such as Bumper Crop or compost, into the top 12 inches of the soil. Set the plant at the same depth it grew in the nursery. After watering well, place a 2 to 3 inch layer of organic mulch over the roots of the tree. Keep the mulch at least 6 inches away from the trunk.
- * Adequate watering during the first year is critical. Trees will need 1 inch of water per week during the growing season. Be careful - excessive watering can result in poor root development or decay.
- * Over fertilization is a frequent killer of young dogwoods. It is best not to fertilize the first year to allow the root system and the foliage to reestablish a proper balance. The second year after planting, use 1/4 cup of a 12-4-8 or 16-4-8 fertilizer in February and mid-June. Scatter over the root area and water in. If the lawn around the dogwood is being fertilized, extra fertilizer for the tree is not required.
- * Protect your trees from mechanical injury from lawn mowers or edgers. Wounds can become entry points for disease organisms.

By following these simple guidelines, you can better assure that your dogwood will be around for many years to come.

Johnson's carries a variety of both American hybrid and Chinese (kousa) dogwoods that are disease resistant and suitable for our area:

Appalachin Spring - white

Aurora - white

Celestial - white

Cherokee Brave - pink

Cherokee Chief - pink

Cherokee Princess - white

Cloud Nine - white

Milky Way - white

National - white

Stellar Pink - pink

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