

# White Dogwood

*Benthamidia florida*  
(formerly *cornus florida*)



Also known as a flowering dogwood, this tree is a favorite in many yards and gardens. It is native to the northeastern United States and can be found in local forests, including along the trails at the Colman Reservation and Leach Wildlife Sanctuary in Attleboro. The beautiful white blossoms, sometimes edged with pink, can be seen in May.

In the fall, the glossy red berries attract winter songbirds, ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, and wild turkeys, as well as skunks, deer, rabbits, and squirrels.

Growth Speed: Medium  
Mature Height: 20' - 25'  
Sun Preference: Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade  
Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Loamy, Moist, Rich, Sandy, Well Drained



## Planting Instructions

<b>1</b>	Pick a location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full or partial sun</li><li>• At least 10 feet from any permanent structure</li><li>• At least 20 feet from any other tree</li><li>• Not under any utility wires</li></ul> If at risk of being stepped on or mowed down, protect the tree with a ring of stones, stakes, or wire mesh. Or plant it in your garden for the first 2 years, then transplant it to a permanent location.
<b>2</b>	Plant the tree within a few days. Until then, keep the roots wrapped in damp paper. Before planting, immerse the roots in water for 3-6 hours.
<b>3</b>	Dig a hole at least twice as wide as the roots.
<b>4</b>	Pile the soil you have removed next to the hole. (If you keep a tidy lawn, put a tarp down first.) Remove all grass and weeds from the soil in the pile.
<b>5</b>	Hold the tree over the center of the hole so that its roots will be just below the surface.
<b>6</b>	Put the soil back into the hole, packing it firmly around the roots.
<b>7</b>	Do not add any fertilizer, mulch, or potting soil as you fill the hole.
<b>8</b>	Form a ring of soil around the edge of the hole to retain water.
<b>9</b>	Spread a 2" layer of mulch around, but not touching, the tree. This keeps the soil moist and deters weeds. You can purchase bark mulch, or make your own by shredding dead leaves with a lawn mower.
<b>10</b>	Water generously. Repeat whenever the soil under the mulch seems dry.

*When your seedling grows leaves, send us a photo at [attleborolandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:attleborolandtrust@gmail.com)*