Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

Davidsonville, MD | Severna Park, MD | Smyrna, MD
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Cherokee Chief Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida 'Cherokee Chief'

Height: 30 feet

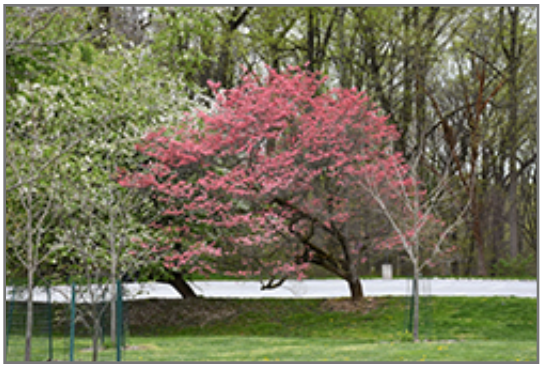
Spread: 35 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b



Cherokee Chief Flowering Dogwood flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Cherokee Chief Flowering Dogwood in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A highly desirable ornamental tree which is absolutely blanketed in rosy red flowers that fade to white in the centers in spring, attractive tiered habit as well; a pictuesque tree that requires rich, well-drained acidic soil and adequate moisture

Ornamental Features

Cherokee Chief Flowering Dogwood features showy clusters of rose flowers with white centers held atop the branches in mid spring. It has attractive yellow-variegated forest green foliage which emerges burgundy in spring. The pointy leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding brick red in the fall. It produces red berries from early to late fall. The warty gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Cherokee Chief Flowering Dogwood is a multi-stemmed deciduous tree with a stunning habit of growth which features almost oriental horizontally-tiered branches. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease

Cherokee Chief Flowering Dogwood is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent

Planting & Growing

Cherokee Chief Flowering Dogwood will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 35 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.



Cherokee Chief Flowering Dogwood flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.