



Dogwood

Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is a small native tree that provides year round interest in the landscape. This species has white or pink showy flowers in spring, deep green leaves and red fruit in summer, burgundy red fall coloration and a unique branch structure and bark that dominates throughout winter months.

Dogwood thrives in areas with morning sun and afternoon shade. Soils should be well drained, slightly acid and rich in organic matter. The shallow root system is very sensitive to drought and competes poorly with turfgrass for water and nutrients. For this reason, dogwood performs best where there is a layer of organic mulch beneath its branches.



Early symptoms of dogwood anthracose

Mulch also protects the trunk from wounds inflicted by mowers and string trimmers, wounds that often lead to serious insect and disease problems.

The most serious pest of dogwood is anthracose disease that causes blighting of flowers, leaves, twigs and branches. Left untreated, anthracose can kill dogwood in as little as two years. Other pests of dogwood include leaf spots, flower blights, canker diseases and borers. Nitrogen and manganese deficiency are common on infertile soils, especially those that are alkaline or poorly drained.

Recommended Monitoring of Dogwood

Timing	Treatment
Late Winter	Prune out dead and diseased twigs and branches. Inspect root collar: Excavate mulch and soil to expose flare as necessary. Apply additional mulch as necessary.
Early Spring	Apply first fungicide treatment to suppress anthracnose, leaf spots and flower blight. Install pheromone trap.
Mid Spring	Apply second fungicide treatment to suppress anthracnose, leaf spots and flower blight. Monitor for dogwood borer and caterpillar defoliators. Treat as necessary.
Late Spring	Apply third fungicide treatment to suppress anthracnose, leafspots and flower blight. Monitor for dogwood borer and caterpillar defoliators. Treat as necessary. Sample soil for nutrient levels and pH especially if deficiency symptoms are present.
Early Summer	Apply additional anthracnose treatments if weather conditions have been exceptionally moist. Monitor for dogwood borer. Treat as necessary. Inspect irrigation and soil moisture to reduce water stress and prevent root disease. Corrective prune crown and remove watersprouts as necessary.
Mid Summer	Prune out watersprouts. Inspect irrigation and soil moisture to reduce water stress and prevent root disease. A fungicide treatment to suppress anthracnose is necessary only if weather conditions have been cool and wet.
Late Summer	Prune out watersprouts. Inspect irrigation and soil moisture to reduce water stress and prevent root disease.
Early Fall	Fertilize and apply amendments per soil test results. Inspect root collar and excavate soil and mulch to expose flare . Inspect irrigation and soil moisture to reduce water stress and prevent root disease