

## Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)

Dogwood trees are widely known for their delicate beauty, and the Kousa variety adds a toughness that makes this species an excellent choice for home landscapes and urban areas. The tree also makes a visual contribution year-round. In spring, it produces a heavenly array of star-like blooms. In summer, its intriguing canopy of layered branches provides shade and beauty. In autumn, it offers spectacular bright red color. The spring blooms are probably the tree's largest selling point — and its most misunderstood. The white “petals” aren't actually petals at all. They are modified leaves called bracts that surround the small, greenish-yellow, insignificant flowers.

The Kousa Dogwood can grow to about 30' tall with an equal spread. It is tougher than the native flowering Dogwood when it comes to disease and pests and is a good choice for planting near utility lines, buildings, or walls.