

12/15/2018



## Dogwoods of the Sherwood Demonstration Garden

Summer Brasuel

UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

Spring Around Here

As residents of El Dorado County, we are fortunate to have native Western Dogwood to enjoy. Many of us look forward to hikes and drives to enjoy the spring dogwood bloom. Then again to enjoy their beautiful colors in fall. There are also different cultivars growing in neighbors yards. If you are like me, you may take a detour to see these gorgeous beauties while driving to your next stop on your "to do list".

Some of these dogwood cultivars are featured in a few of the 16 themed gardens within the Sherwood Demonstration Garden in Placerville. Let's take a little virtual tour through the SDG and learn a little about these beautiful trees and shrubs.

The Japanese Garden uses a *Cornus kousa*, 'Milky Way Select' to frame both the tea house and the water feature. If facing west, the tree frames the tea house. If facing east, it frames the waterfall and pool. This tree grows to 25 ft. in height and spreads 15-20 ft. wide. Like most dogwood, *Cornus kousa* prefers partial shade. But in The Sherwood Demonstration Garden it is thriving in full sun! Its prolific white blooms appear in late spring followed by beautiful red fruit that persist into fall. Read more about this beauty here:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=243982&isprofile=0&z=5>

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The Marsh features a different kind of dogwood; shrubs! The Red and Yellow Twig dogwood thrive along the water's edge. They have year round interest, too. In spring, our red twig, *Cornus Alba 'Elegantissima'*, leafs out with its variegated foliage, which persists into fall. The Yellow twigs leaves a green. Both have small white flower clusters that form berry clusters for continued garden interest. In winter, after leaf drop, the real show starts. The bright red and bright yellow stems are stunning in an otherwise bare landscape in most winter gardens. If you live in snow country, the brightly colored stems are a wonder to behold as they poke up through the white snow. Both shrubs thrive in full sun, which is needed for the brightest colored bark. See some photos of our Marsh in winter here:

[http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration\\_Garden/Individual\\_Gardens\\_Gateway/Marsh/](http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/Demonstration_Garden/Individual_Gardens_Gateway/Marsh/)

As you would expect, our Shade Garden features several dogwood. Although red twig dogwood thrives in full sun, it also does extremely well in shade. One of the wonderful things about our demonstration garden is that we can feature lots of ideas for El Dorado County gardeners! Also in the Shade Garden is another *Cornus kousa*; the specimen in the Japanese Garden is in full sun, this one is in shade. Last but not least is an eastern dogwood, *Cornus florida* or Flowering Eastern Dogwood. This tree sports white flowers in spring, often overlapping with the Redbud bloom. What a combination that makes!! Flowers are followed by red fruit that attract birds.

Read more about this spectacular specimen here:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c280>

Once established, dogwood are easy care trees. They like water and shade, but can thrive in full sun and drier locations. In the Sherwood Demonstration garden we try to feature low water species of plants. Come visit and talk to our docents. We have water data on many of our plants. [Visit our main website.](#) Each of the 16 themed gardens has its own webpage. Plant lists from each garden can be downloaded for use as you stroll through the gardens.

UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, by calling [\(530\) 621-5512](tel:5306215512). Walk-ins are welcome at our office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. Visit us at the [Sherwood Demonstration Garden](#), located at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville, behind Folsom Lake College – El Dorado Center. The garden is open on the second Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m. to noon, November 2018 through March 2019. We change to summer hours in April.

For more information about our public education classes and activities, go to our UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County website at <http://mgeldorado.ucanr.edu>. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at [http://ucanr.edu/master\\_gardener\\_e-news](http://ucanr.edu/master_gardener_e-news). You can also find us on Facebook.