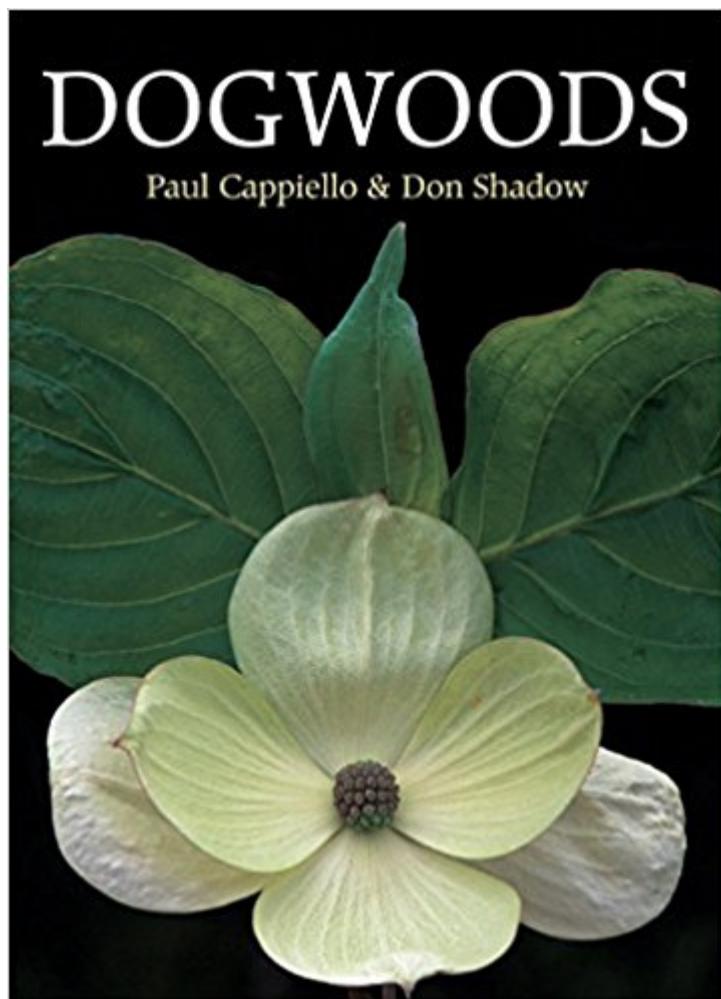


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# Dogwoods: The Genus *Cornus*



## Synopsis

Dogwood trees and shrubs are unquestionably among the superstars of the ornamental garden. Although cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*) and common dogwood (*C. sanguinea*) have been grown in Europe since ancient times, it is only since the age of exploration in the 18th and 19th centuries that dogwoods from the New World and Asia have ascended to the high thrones of gardens, where their aristocracy remains unchallenged today. Given the huge popularity of dogwoods as garden plants, not to mention the hundreds of choice selections and hybrids that have come to prominence in recent decades, it is surprising that there has never been a horticultural book on the genus. Paul Cappiello fills this longstanding gap with this definitive treatment for gardeners and enthusiasts. Providing a solid overview of all dogwoods of horticultural merit, the author provides more than two hundred stunning photos to help with the daunting tasks of identification and plant selection. He provides helpful details on cultivation, combating pests and diseases, and the fundamentals of breeding and selection. Based on years of research, first-hand observation, and interviews with dozens of specialists and nurserypeople, *Dogwoods* is an unprecedented guide to the diversity of plants available in nurseries today. Written in engaging and informative prose, this book will be treasured by generations of gardeners.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Timber Press, Incorporated (March 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0881926795

ISBN-13: 978-0881926798

Product Dimensions: 10.4 x 0.9 x 7.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #695,137 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #163 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Trees #249 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Horticulture #453 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Plants > Trees

## Customer Reviews

This comprehensive book is a must for anyone considering raising or breeding dogwoods. Indeed, anyone setting aside the money and space for a dogwood tree should first look at this book, or

perhaps one other: The only source I know of that comes close is the "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael A. Dirr. Naturally, this book, which looks only at dogwoods, includes some cultivars not covered by Dirr, and has about 2 or 3 times as much text as Dirr does for each cultivar. The sort of info covered? Depth of information varies, but basically: Breeder or introducer; whether it's a sport of another named variety; height, width and form; flower, berry and foliage description (size, color and shape); flower density; blooming period; often word on resistance or otherwise to various fungi; patent number, if applicable (some varieties are not yet patented or even available for sale, but are included due to the authors' opinion of their superior merit); and whether the cultivar is a "bogus" name or copy of another cultivar. This book also has lovely photos (The Dirr book has only some line drawings, although Dirr has other, also excellent books, with color photos, but which are far less comprehensive). Not every variety has a photo; many have just a close-up of a flower with bracts; others include a photo of the overall look of the tree in bloom, or with autumn color, or close-ups of autumn berries. It really helps to have 3 or 4 photos to judge a cultivar properly. If one were to fault the book for anything it would be for not having 3 big photos for all of the (non-bogus) cultivars, but then it would weigh -- and cost -- twice as much.

Written by the former horticulture director of the Bernheim Arboretum and award-winning gardener and horticulture expert Don Shadow, Dogwoods is an in-depth guide to dogwood trees and shrubs, which have been immensely popular as ornamental plants especially since the 18th and 19th centuries. Offering an overview of all dogwoods of horticultural note, including species of trees, shrubs and groundcovers, and illustrated with more than two hundred gorgeous, full-color photographs, Dogwoods is the perfect guidebook for determining the type of dogwood best suited for one's garden and highly recommended for anyone interested in cultivating these beautiful plants. A highly informative species-by-species detail, intended especially for gardeners but accessible to lay readers as well. All gardeners would be well advised to send for the free Timber Press catalog for a complete listing of their titles.

Very high quality photography and high quality writing and organization. I don't believe there's a competitive book on the subject and it's unlikely that an author will be motivated to exceed the quality of this book. I am not an expert on dogwoods, and this book has encouraged me to grow more dogwood species.

The book contains a good description of Dogwood cultivars. I found it useful for identification

purposes. Pathologies affecting *Cornus* are also well described. On the other hand I found that cultural techniques are insufficiently addressed.

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