

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Kousa Dogwood

(Cornus kousa)

Get to know your tree:

The kousa dogwood is native to eastern Asia, but is non-invasive in Michigan. It has medium-sized, oblong leaves with pointed tips. The leaves have veins which curve to follow the leaf edge. Branches and leaves emerge opposite one another. Fall leaf color is typically a bright red. Flowers are small, greenish-yellow, and occur in clusters surrounded by showy bracts, a type of modified leaf. The bracts are white and have pointed tips. Fruits are small pink or red compound berries forming balls. Bark has peeling scales revealing orange, grey, or brown coloration.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter kousa dogwood provides approximately \$9.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 11 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger kousa dogwoods, visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

The fruit of this species is edible, with a sweet flavor and creamy texture similar to that of a persimmon. It can be used to make wine.

Seven cultivars of the kousa dogwood have received the Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with partial sun exposure (around 4 hours of sun per day). Kousa dogwoods may grow to heights of 15-25 feet, with a spread of around 15-20 feet. This species does well in most soil types.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.

