



While flowering Dogwoods are often seen as the star of the spring landscape, there are many other beautiful, spring-flowering trees to consider. Fringetrees, Magnolias, Ornamental Cherries, Serviceberries, Crabapples, Redbuds, and Witch Hazel, just to name a few, provide not only stunning spring displays but great fall color and fruit for birds. With so many varieties to choose from, there is sure to be one that will work in your landscape, so when making your selection consider the mature size of the tree, flowering time, flower color, and potential fruit show.

Here are a few of our favorites:

Ornamental Cherry – Cherries typically have light pink to white flowers in early spring. Their mature size can be 25'-35' tall with a similar spread in Y or vase shape. There are also weeping cherries, which are often thought of as small or dwarf, but some varieties can be over 25' tall and wide. All cherries have smooth, shiny reddish-brown bark that is attractive in the winter and they often have nice orange to yellow fall foliage. Examples include:

- 'Kwanzan' - upright, broad vase shape, 30' x 20', double pink blooms
- 'Akebono' - upright, spreader, 25' x 25', soft pink blooms, vigorous grower
- 'First Blush' - upright, narrow, 25' x 12', double pink fragrant blooms, orange fall color
- 'Pink Flair' - narrow, vase shape with distinct upright branching, 25' x 15', single pink blooms
- 'Pink Cascade' - weeping, 12' x 12', prolific bright pink blooms

Serviceberry (Amelanchier) – There are many cultivars of serviceberries, usually differing only in mature size and shape. They are native to the eastern US and all have early white flowers followed by small, dark blue berries that ripen in June. Birds love them, so they usually don't make a mess on the ground and if you can keep the birds away, the berries also are quite delicious. Serviceberries can be found growing as single stem trees or multi-stem clumps. The same cultivar grown as a clump will be smaller than one grown as a single trunk tree. They are best grown in the full sun but are also one of the more shade-tolerant flowering trees and can tolerate wet soils. Examples include:

- 'Autumn Brilliance' - upright spreading 20' x 15'
- 'Spring Flurry' - has exceptional tree form with a strong dominant leader, 28' x 20', orange fall color

Redbud (Cercis canadensis) – This eastern US native matures to be 20'-25' tall and similar width in a Y or vase shape. Native redbuds have a purple or magenta-colored flower in early spring, but newer cultivars have a wide range of flower colors (pale pink to almost red) and leaf colors (red, chartreuse, or variegated). Along with the upright forms, there are also several weeping forms. All Redbuds flower best in full sun but will grow in the part sun, like serviceberries. They may produce large amounts of seedpods that look like brown pea pods when mature. Their blooms are fragrant and they tolerate deer browsing very well.

Examples include:

- 'Rising Sun' - 15' x 12', stunning new growth, apricot color foliage fading to greenish-yellow
- 'Forest Pansy' - 20' x 25', spreading, deep purple foliage fading to green in summer
- 'Appalachian Red' - 20' x 25', bloom with magenta bud and dark pink flower
- 'Royal White' - 30' x 25', vigorous, plentiful white buds and blooms
- 'Pink Pom Poms' - 20' x 15', seedless, double pink blooms
- 'Ruby Falls' - weeping, 8' x 6', glossy purple foliage
- 'Vanilla Twist' - weeping, 8' x 6', cascading and twisting nature, white blooms
- 'Pink Heartbreaker' - weeping, 12' x 8', vigorous

Fringetree -

Chionanthus virginicus) – This fringetree is an eastern US native with white fringe-like flowers that appear as leaves are emerging. Their mature height is 15'-20' with a rounded shape and usually has multiple trunks, but single trunk specimens are available. They have good, yellow fall color and are best in the full sun, although some shade is okay.

Chionanthus retusus – This fringe tree is also known as the Chinese fringetree. It is similar in flower, size, and shape to the native species and also grows best in the full sun. They are more typically found as single trunk trees and have very interesting winter bark.

Crabapple (Malus) – Crabapples have white, pink, or red flowers, often fragrant, depending on the cultivar. Their mature size is typically around 20'-25' tall and wide, but depending on the variety can have slightly different sizes and shapes. They are best grown in full sun and are tolerant of hot dry conditions, making them a good choice for street planting. All crabapples produce fruit (berries) that mature in the fall and are loved by birds in the winter. They are also a great pollinator for fruiting apple trees. These are not your grandmother's crabapples. Newer selections have smaller fruit that persists on the tree longer, giving them another ornamental dimension and at TPK we only carry varieties that have good to excellent resistance to common crabapple diseases. Examples include:

- 'Sugar Thyme' - upright, spreading, 18' x 15', green foliage, white blooms, small red fruit
- 'Sparkling Sprite' - compact, rounded, 12' x 12', green foliage, pink buds/white flowers, yellow to orange fruit
- 'Raspberry Spear' - narrow columnar form, 20' x 8', purple foliage, dark pink blooms, deep red fruit, excellent disease resistance
- 'Ivory Spear' - narrow columnar form, 18' x 7', green foliage, white blooms, red fruit, excellent disease resistance
- 'Royal Raindrops' - spreading habit, 20' x 15', purple foliage, pink/red blooms, red fruit

Witchhazel (Hamamelis x intermedia) – A great woodland plant that can grow in full sun. They have fragrant blooms in late winter to early spring. Different cultivars can be upright, spreading, or multi-trunked and deer do not typically browse on them. Examples include:

- 'Arnold's Promise' - vase-shaped, 10' x 10', large fragrant yellow blooms from mid-February to March, yellow fall color, leaves drop nicely in late fall
- 'Jelena' - vase-shaped, 10' x 10', fragrant copper blooms, orange/red fall color
- 'Diana' - 12' x 12', copper/red blooms, orange/red fall color
- 'Barnstead Gold' - 12' x 12', bright yellow with red at the base, spreading, yellow fall color

Deciduous Magnolias – Magnolias have been with us for millions of years and have even been found fossilized. Their fragrant flowers range in color and normally come early in March and persist through April and May. Examples include:

- 'Jane,' 'Ann,' 'Susan' - smaller in stature, multi-branched, 10' x 10', pink to purple blooms
- 'Elizabeth' - pyramidal, 40' x 25', clear yellow later blooms
- 'Lois' - upright, 30' x 20', pale yellow later blooms
- 'Leonard Messel' - low-branched, 20' x 20', pink early blooms
- 'Butterflies' - 25' x 15', true yellow blooms
- 'Sunsation' - pyramidal, 25' x 10', yellow blooms
- 'Genie' - compact and narrow, 10' x 5', deep purple fragrant blooms

Dogwoods

Cornus florida – This dogwood is native to eastern North America and has white or pink flowers in late April or early May. It matures to around 20'-25' tall and wide with a rounded shape. It can tolerate the full sun but is best grown in part sun and does not do well in hot, dry locations. There are also many named varieties (cultivars) that have proven disease resistance. Examples include:

- 'Cloud 9' - spreading habit, white flowers, 15' x 20'
- 'Cherokee Princess' - oval/rounded habit, vigorous, 24' x 20', white blooms, disease-resistant
- 'Prairie Pink' - 20' x 20', soft pink blooms, thick and glossy foliage
- 'Cherokee Brave' - most vigorous pink dogwood, 25' x 20', dark pink blooms, resistance to mildew and anthracnose

Cornus kousa – This Chinese native, usually with white flowers, blooms in late May or early June. It matures to 20'-25' with a Y or vase shape, but many cultivars usually differ in mature size or leaf color. It is best to plant these Dogwoods in full sun. They have a good disease and insect resistance, long-lasting blooms, interesting bark in the winter, and raspberry-like fruit in fall. Examples include:

- 'Milky Way Select' – vase-shaped, 20' x 20', prolific white blooms that can last for a month, dark green foliage, orange/red fall color, tan exfoliating bark
- 'Scarlet Fire' - vigorous, upright habit, deep pink to fuchsia blooms, disease-resistant

Cornus hybrids – Most of these dogwoods have *C. kousa* as one of the parents. Their mature size is 15'-20' tall and wide with a rounded shape and is best grown in full sun. Their main advantages include disease/insect resistance, sun, and heat tolerance because of their *C. kousa* parent, and larger, early flowers like *C. florida*. Examples include:

- 'Venus' - upright, oval habit, 25' x 20', 6" large creamy white blooms in June, disease-resistant
- 'Starlight' - upright, oval habit, 30' x 20', large creamy white blooms

Cornus officinalis – This dogwood is one of the first trees to flower in spring, usually around mid-March, and has a very interesting winter bark. They have small clusters of yellow flowers that attract early pollinators and are very unusual in shape for dogwoods. They are best grown in full sun, have a rounded shape, and grow to around 15'-25'. You may have heard of a dogwood called Cornelian cherry (*C. mas*) that forms a large red fruit that forms in late summer. *C. mas* and *C. officinalis* are very similar, with the biggest difference being *C. officinalis* flowers a little earlier. Examples include:

- 'Golden Glory' *C. mas* - upright, 20' x 12', large yellow flowers, attracting early pollinators, showy red fruit
- 'Kintoki' *C. officinalis* - upright, 20' x 10', blooms two weeks earlier than *c. mas*, yellow blooms

Not sure which tree would work best in your yard? Email us a picture and our team can help you pick the perfect tree for your unique location.

