



Photo credit: Kevin Kavanagh

## Alternate-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)

Alternate-leaf dogwood is a small tree with regular horizontal branching resulting in it also being known as Pagoda Dogwood. It grows on forest edges and as an understory tree in rich, moist woods. It is found throughout south-central Ontario and has a large native range extending from southern Manitoba and Quebec south to northern Florida and the Gulf coast.



**Plant type:**

Slow growing, smaller tree with a unique horizontal branching pattern.



**Light conditions:**

This forest understory tree prefers shade, part shade or dappled light shade. Alternate-leaf Dogwood will tolerate more sun when provided with adequate soil moisture.



**Soil and moisture:**

Prefers evenly moist and nutrient rich, well-drained soil.



**Size/height:**

A tree suitable for smaller spaces. Maximum height is 6-9 m (20-35 ft) tall.



**Flowers/fruit:**

Provides showy, creamy white clusters of flowers in late spring or early summer. These are followed by clusters of purple fruit in late summer and early fall.



**Wildlife benefits:**

The tree is a larval host for the Spring Azure Butterfly and the fruit are a favourite of Eastern Kingbirds, Vireos and other songbirds.