

Plant Dogwood Trees For Color And Effect

NEWARK, Del. — The flowering dogwood tree is full-colored throughout three seasons and a popular choice for home landscaping. A beautiful showy display of flowers in the spring is followed by crisp green foliage in the summer that, in the autumn, turns to a rich brocade of red and crimson.

According to Margaret L. Moor, Delaware State College Cooperative Extension agent, you can choose from several varieties of flowering dogwood trees for a bright landscaping effect.

Moor recommends several types of the American or eastern dogwood, native to the eastern United States:

- Pink Flowering blooms before leaves appear and thrives in sun or partial shade. Red to purple foliage and red berries appear in the autumn.

- Cloud 9 is an extremely abundant, spreading bloomer. Two-year-old trees may have up to 75 blooms, which are large and clean white in color.

- Cherokee Chief is one of the best known of all dogwood varieties. Blooms are a beautiful deep ruby red that hold their color throughout the blooming period. In the autumn the Cherokee Chief is brilliant scarlet, shading to purple and green.

- Rainbow is a white-flowering dogwood that produces bright yellow and green leaves in the spring and summer. Red berries and pink-red-purple-colored leaves appear in autumn.

Moor also suggests another type of dogwood known as the Oriental, native to China, Japan and Korea. Oriental dogwoods spread as they grow and tend to be multi-trunked. Two of the more popular varieties are:

- Milky Way is a vigorously growing tree that has star-shaped blooms which appear after leaves are out in May and June. Reddish fall foliage, large, red, strawberry-

like fruit and exfoliating bark create a fascinating year-round effect, according to Moor.

- National has large, creamy-white star-shaped blooms that provide an exceptional contrast against the dark green foliage. Large, red, strawberry-like fruit appears in the fall. A vigorous grower, this variety forms a vase-shaped tree. In the winter, the branching habit and exfoliating bark of large trees create a sculptured effect.

Moor said it is best to transplant dogwood trees when they are fully dormant. Balled-and-burlapped plants can be planted November through April. Bareroot dogwoods should be planted early in the spring.

Select a well-drained site. Dig a hole one and a half to two times wider than the ball of soil, or the spread of the root of the bareroot plants. Don't dig much deeper unless backfill soil is packed in the

bottom of the hole to prevent settling.

Leave the burlap or wire basket on the ball, but remove any plastic strings tied around the base of the trunk and slit any treated or plastic burlap.

For the first growing season, water thoroughly once a week unless rainfall is ample and evenly distributed. Less water will be needed on well-mulched trees than on unmulched ones, said Moor.

If the planting site has reasonably fertile soil, well supplied with organic matter, fertilizer is usually not needed the first year. Dogwoods are not heavy feeders and excess fertilizer can damage their roots.

The fleshy, soft, delicately branching root system of a dogwood tree grows near the soil's surface. Moor said to watch for damage from drying out, mechanical injury, oxygen starvation, insects and disease.

GREENSBORO, N.C. — New uses for corn and its by-products are the focus of the third annual Corn Utilization Conference (CUC III).

The conference, scheduled for June 19-21 in St. Louis, Mo., brings together top corn-use researchers and industry leaders for an exchange of information that in the past has led to new corn uses.

"Since the first utilization conference in June 1987, the number of universities that research new corn uses has increased significantly," said Dr. Gene Iannotti, CUC III chairman and associate professor, University of Missouri, Columbia. "I get excited when I see the progress we've made in three years. We expect CUC III to spur even more developments.

At the conference, sponsored by Ciba-Geigy Seed Division and the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), experts from around the world will present papers on various advances in corn use.

"Poly saccharides, either starch or cellulose, can be economical sources for raw materials used to produce commodity chemicals," says Dr. James Gaddy, department of chemical engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and chairman of the Chemicals From Corn session. "There is great potential for chemicals ranging from alcohols to acids, ketones and aldehydes to be made from corn."

The feasibility of using corn to produce calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), a non-corrosive road de-icer, will be a key presentation in Gaddy's session.

Corn also can be used as part of many plastic products. Dr. Helena

Li Chum, manager, chemical conversion research branch, Solar Energy Research Institute, Golden, Colo., will chair sessions on polymers and their environmental degradation.

"Compatibility is an issue when cornstarch and cornstarch-derived polymers are used with high-volume thermoplastics," said Chum. "We'll discuss research on these materials and chemical approaches to increase compatibility."

Research on the biodegradation of these materials also will be highlighted. One presentation will focus on the findings of a field-scale composting experiment in Urbana, Ill. A discussion of the pros and cons of composting will follow the presentation.

Dr. Ron Phillips, department of agronomy and plant genetics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, will chair a session on biotechnology that examines the many advantages available today.

"This session captures the excitement of recent biotechnological developments and future expectations," said Phillips. "The concerns that often accompany such rapid change will be addressed, as will federal regulations."

Featured biotechnology includes the use of genetically engineered bacteria to protect the corn plant, the monitoring of corn crosses with new molecular genetic markers called restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs), and the use of tissue culture to select corn hybrids with special attributes.

For more information on CUC III, contact Ann Beirne, NCGA, 1000 Executive Parkway, Suite 105, St. Louis, MO 63141-6397, (314) 275-9915.

Soybean Test Reports Are In

Soybean tests are conducted annually to provide interested persons with information regarding the performance of soybeans grown in Pennsylvania. The 1989 report is now available in county extension offices.

The following characteristics were measured/evaluated for the varieties grown:

- Yield - calculated after all the

seed weights were adjusted to 13 percent moisture.

- Maturity - when approximately 95 percent of pods were ripe.

- Height - average length of plants from the ground to the tip of the main stem.

- Lodging.

- Seed quality and purple stain.

- Seed size - the approximate number of seeds in one pound.

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