Dogwood Tree, Milky Way

Cornus kousa 'Milky Way'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Kousa Dogwood

Description:

A spectacular specimen tree for the home landscape, with showy white flowers held on top of the branches in spring and a strongly horizontal habit of growth; requires rich, well-drained acidic soil and adequate precipitation. Needs wind protection.

Ornamental Features

Dogwood Tree, Milky Way features showy clusters of white flowers with white bracts held atop the branches in late spring. It features an abundance of magnificent pink berries from early to mid fall. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up. It has bluish-green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves turn an outstanding brick red in the fall. The peeling gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Dogwood Tree, Milky Way is a deciduous tree with a stunning habit of growth which features almost oriental horizontally-tiered branches. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.



Dogwood Tree, Milky Way flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Dogwood Tree, Milky Way in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Dogwood Tree, Milky Way is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use



Dogwood Tree, Milky Way fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Dogwood Tree, Milky Way will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 6 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.

This tree should be grown in a location with partial shade and which is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (4): The fruit is approximately 1 to 1 1/2 inch berries turning pinkish red in the fall, generally eaten by birds. The fruit can be scooped or raked and bagged. Leaves can be blown or raked onto the lawn and mowed or bagged. Dogwood trees are under story trees that grow best in an established neighborhood that provides heat and wind protection from larger trees; it also requires well-drained acidic soils and adequate precipitation.