Summer Gold Chinese Dogwood

Cornus kousa 'Summer Gold'



Summer Gold Chinese Dogwood foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Kousa Dogwood

Description:

Exquisite, uncrinkled bright green foliage, with golden edges and pink highlights in summer; flaming red fall color; distinctly upright with dense branching; in mid to late spring lovely white bracts appear and last for several weeks

Ornamental Features

Summer Gold Chinese Dogwood features showy clusters of white flowers with white bracts held atop the branches from mid to late spring. It has attractive gold-variegated green foliage with hints of pink. The pointy leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding crimson in the fall. The peeling gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Summer Gold Chinese Dogwood is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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.



Summer Gold Chinese Dogwood
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, 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.

Summer Gold Chinese Dogwood is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Summer Gold Chinese Dogwood will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, 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 winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.