# Red Pygmy Dwarf Red Flowering Dogwood

***Cornus florida 'Red Pygmy'***

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

**Description:**

Lovely pinkish-red bracts in spring cover this truly dwarf version of the species, has an upright habit; attractive red fruit in late summer, good fall color; ideal as a small accent in the border

**Ornamental Features**

Red Pygmy Dwarf Red Flowering Dogwood features showy bracted pink flowers with rose bracts held atop the branches in mid spring. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The glossy pointy leaves turn an outstanding dark red in the fall. It produces red berries from early to late fall. The warty gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

**Landscape Attributes**

Red Pygmy Dwarf Red Flowering 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.

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. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease

Red Pygmy Dwarf Red Flowering Dogwood is recommended for the following landscape applications;

*Red Pygmy Dwarf Red Flowering Dogwood foliage*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

*Red Pygmy Dwarf Red Flowering Dogwood*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

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- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Red Pygmy Dwarf Red Flowering Dogwood will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 25 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in 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 quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, 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 selection of a native North American species.

Red Pygmy Dwarf Red Flowering Dogwood makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.