Sgt. Pepper® Dogwood

Cornus alba 'Verpaalen2'



Sgt. Pepper Dogwood foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Spacing: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Description:

A hardy shrub dogwood, prized for its brilliant red stems contrasting against green and white variegated foliage; puts on a dazzling show with burgundy and pink foliage during the fall months; can grow quite large; good foundation plant in beds and hedges

Ornamental Features

Sgt. Pepper Dogwood has clusters of creamy white flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. It has white-variegated green foliage. The pointy leaves turn outstanding shades of burgundy and pink in the fall. It produces white berries in mid summer. The red branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Sgt. Pepper Dogwood is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. 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 can be pruned at anytime. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Sgt. Pepper Dogwood is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Sgt. Pepper Dogwood will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 6 feet apart. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. This plant will benefit from an application of bonemeal and/or mycorrhizal fertilizer at the time of planting. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.