

Kennedy Merritt

In my backyard I see a flowering dogwood tree. The scientific name is *Cornus Florida*. Right now, it is fall and the leaves are turning red and it is full of red berries. Soon it will be winter, and all the leaves will fall to the ground. In the spring it grows beautiful flowers that are white. There are several other trees in my yard such as pine, oak and sweet gum trees but this one is my favorite.

There is a lot of wildlife in and around this dogwood tree too. The first thing I notice are the holes from a woodpecker looking for insects. I have seen a woodpecker on the powerline near the tree. There are other birds in the tree, and some make nests for the eggs. I like to watch them grow up and fly away. There are many types of animals that live near this dogwood tree, such as whitetail deer, raccoons, fox squirrels and sometimes I can hear an screech owl at night. There is also a large pond near this tree full of bass and brim. I really like to fish under the shade of the tree.

This gorgeous dogwood tree is also the North Carolina state flower. This tree appears to be old and healthy. The trunk is large, and the tree is tall with lots of leaves. In the summer it gives a lot of shade. I love to hang out with friends and family under this dogwood tree. We have picnics and cookouts near this tree. I even try to climb the branches for fun. I love this flowering dogwood tree.