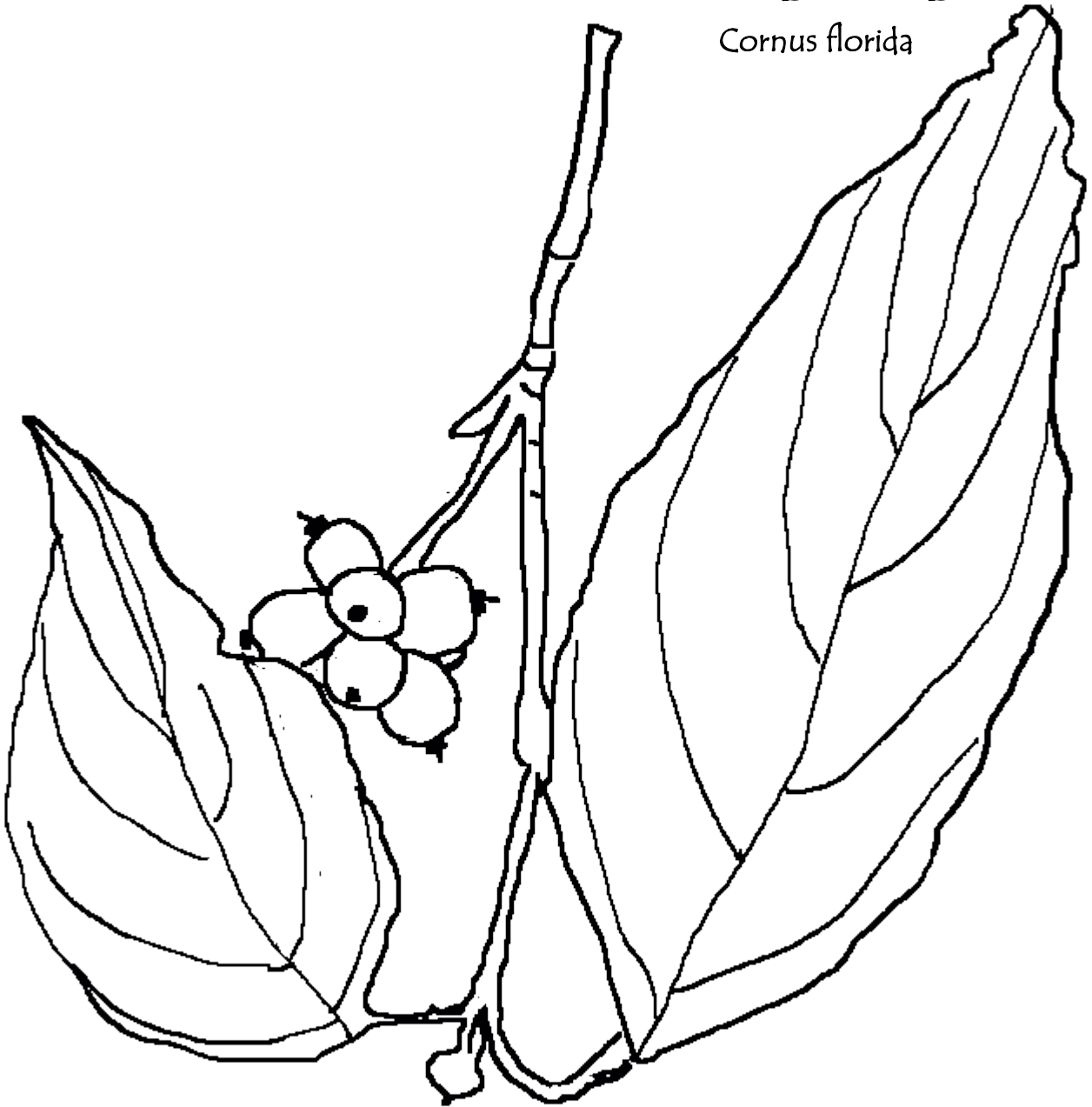


Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida



State tree of MISSOURI, VIRGINIA

The white "flowers" of flowering dogwood are actually four large white bracts encircling a cluster of tiny yellowish true flowers. The bracts start out small and green, and gradually enlarge and turn white during the mid-spring blooming season. In fall, clusters of red berries are formed, and the bright red fall leaf color can be radiant. Flowering dogwood is a common woodland tree through the eastern United States. Look for a small tree rarely exceeding 30 feet tall. You really can tell a dogwood by its bark – look for rough, square to hexagonal patterns like cracked mud; opposite leaves, oval shaped, with an extended point at the tip, impressed parallel veins; berries hard, oval, and bright red.