



Cornus kousa vs. Cornus florida

It doesn't have quite the same ring as Aliens vs. Predators, but what the heck.



I love both of these plants, but I'd like to highlight some of the advantages kousas have over floridas. Cornus florida is an understory tree in nature, receiving some protection from sun and wind from the surrounding forest. They actually want that protection and often will not thrive in an exposed site. Kousas, for the most part, will take more sun and wind, and can do well

in an exposed area. Just make sure in full afternoon sun they get extra water for the first 2 or 3 years until the root system is better established.

Another feature I like is that the kousa bloom time is about 3 weeks after the florida. It's no secret that successional blooms are very important to me, and I love the fact that very similar appearing and related flowers follow each other. It's kind of a design theme in itself! The somewhat bizarre reddish fruit in the fall remind me of miniature space ships.



Kousas come in clump and tree form. There is even a dwarf version called 'Little Poncho', reaching a mature height of 8-10' after 15 or more years. I'd love an opportunity to design a small garden with a 'Little Poncho' as the center focal point!



Bill Ten Eyck

Christensen's Plant Center
6282 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

(734) 454-1400 voice

(734) 454-1414 fax

[***Return to Archive***](#)

