

**FOR RELEASE WEEK OF APRIL 27, 2016**

**TITLE: IT'S A DOGWOOD LIFE**

**BY: RICKY ENSLEY, COUNTY EXTENSION COORDINATOR**

**POLK COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE, 20 N. MAIN STREET, CEDARTOWN**

**770-749-2142**

**[uge2233@uga.edu](mailto:uge2233@uga.edu)**

**As I travel around Polk County, I see lots of dogwoods with lots of problems. We often get calls and samples of dogwoods in our office with problems.**

**Dogwoods are intended to grow as an understory tree. If you notice in the forests, dogwoods are found growing under the canopy of a bigger tree. Plant dogwoods in the shade of larger trees.**

**String mowers and lawnmowers can damage a dogwood's bark. The dogwoods water and food transport system is right under the bark. When the homeowner skins the bark off it is like cutting the dogwood's life line off.**

**Homeowners complain about the dogwood's roots being on top of the ground. The wrong thing to do is to cover the dogwood's roots with soil or cut them off. This will smother or destroy the most important part – a dogwoods root!**

**Which brings me to another point; a dogwood that has wilting leaves and turning gray needs to be watered. Trees, shrubs, and lawns prefer to be watered with one inch of water when they dry out. This should almost never be done more often than once every five to seven days – even during drought. Infrequent deep watering makes the roots grow deep and strong. Healthy roots produce healthy shoots.**

**Treat your dogwood trees right and you will have many years of trouble-free service.**

*The idea for this article came from Willie Chance, County Extension Agent, Houston County, GA.*