

Eastern Illinois University  
**The Keep**

---

Plants by Genus Species

Wesley Whiteside Botanical Garden

---

2011

# Davidia involucreta

Janice Coons  
*Eastern Illinois University*

Nancy Coutant  
*Eastern Illinois University*

Wesley Whiteside  
*Eastern Illinois University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://thekeep.eiu.edu/whiteside\\_species](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/whiteside_species)

 Part of the [Biology Commons](#), and the [Botany Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Coons, Janice; Coutant, Nancy; and Whiteside, Wesley, "Davidia involucreta" (2011). *Plants by Genus Species*. 5.  
[http://thekeep.eiu.edu/whiteside\\_species/5](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/whiteside_species/5)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Wesley Whiteside Botanical Garden at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Plants by Genus Species by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact [tabruns@eiu.edu](mailto:tabruns@eiu.edu).

# Wes Whiteside—Species Information Sheet

## I. Nomenclature

**Family:** Nyssaceae

**Genus Species(Authority):** *Davidia involucrata* Baill.

**Subspecies/Variety(Authority):**

**Cultivar:** Sonoma

**Common Name:** Dove tree

## II. Origin (country and/or habitat)

Native/Rare    Native/Uncommon    **Old World/Rare**    Old  
World/Uncommon

The dove tree has a native distribution in the West Szechuan and West Hupeh regions of China (Dirr 1998).

## III. Habit

<b>Tree</b>	Shrub	Vine
Herbaceous Annual Perennial	Herbaceous Biennial	Herbaceous

**Flowering Season:** Dr. Whiteside's tree has yet to flower

**Flower Color:** Two large white bracts subtending an andromonoecious head

**Fruit Type:** Drupe

## IV. Source of Plant Material

**From where or whom obtained and when:** *Davidia involucrata* "Sonoma" was obtained from Wayside Gardens in South Carolina around 2007.

**Propagule Material:**

Seed                      Vegetative                      **Whole Plant**

**Details:**

**Availability:** The cultivar "Sonoma" is available from some west coast nurseries, and occasionally from high end nurseries in the eastern United States.

**V. Cultural**

**Special Soil Type:** Average soil

**Soil Moisture:** Wet                      **Mesic**                      Dry                      Other

**VI. Additional Comments**

Dr. Whiteside has planted over a half a dozen of Dove trees from a variety of sources. The consistent case of their decline is probably due to a lack of winter hardiness. To bring up the sapling, he wrapped chicken wire filled with pine needles around the above ground stem. The first two years it had lasted. After last year the "Sonoma" cultivar died back to the ground but is now again shoulder high. Dr. Whiteside plans on insulating it more extensively using some extra dirt and straw over the winter. The plant now is Dr. Whiteside's second try with the "Sonoma" variety. The original one had died off due to a late spring frost and the remaining shoot that sprouted later in the season was blown off in a wind storm.

**VII. Literature Cited**

Dirr, M. A. 1998. Manual of Woody Landscape Plants :Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses. Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing L. L. C..