

Eastern Illinois University
The Keep

Plants by Genus Species

Wesley Whiteside Botanical Garden

2011

Davidia involucrata

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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

Tree	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..