June 20, 1955

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was June 20, 1955, the day the flowering dogwood became Missouri’s official tree.

Legislation enacting this statute was created and passed during the Regular Session of the 68th General Assembly, which also tackled several issues needing immediate resolve.

In between debates on a report that followed the prison riot at the Missouri State Penitentiary the previous year, reorganizing state mental hospitals and reorganizing the executive branch, Missouri senators also spent time discussing the Cornus Florida L., or flowering dogwood.

According to the [secretary of state’s](http://www.sos.mo.gov/symbols/symbols.asp?symbol=tree) website, the tree is small in size, rarely growing over 40 feet in height or 18 inches in diameter. In the fall, the upper part of the leaves turns scarlet or orange and bright red fruits grow on the flowering dogwood.

And it became the official state tree on June 20, 1955, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: Secretary of State’s office and Missouri Senate Journal)