Redbud, Flame Thrower

Cercis canadensis 'NC2016-2'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Eastern Redbud, Judas Tree, Love Tree

Description:

A spectacular small ornamental tree featuring perfectly pink flowers in early spring, followed by stunning burgundy-red new leaves that mature to bright yellow and green; color display is persistent throughout the season; a great landscape accent

Ornamental Features

Redbud, Flame Thrower features showy hot pink pea-like flowers with dark red calyces along the branches from early to mid spring before the leaves. It has attractive yellow-variegated lime green foliage with hints of red which emerges burgundy in spring. The glossy heart-shaped leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of orange and in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Redbud, Flame Thrower is a deciduous tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease



Redbud, Flame Thrower foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Redbud, Flame Thrower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Redbud, Flame Thrower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use



Redbud, Flame Thrower
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Redbud, Flame Thrower will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 5 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree should be grown in a location with partial shade and which is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rate (3): Redbuds produce a few to many flat bean pods, 2 to 3 inches long. The pods generally don't germinate so clean up for all debris can be blown or raked onto the lawn and mowed or bagged. Redbuds need wind protection.