Redbud, Eastern

Cercis canadensis



Redbud, Eastern in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Redbud, Judas Tree, Love Tree

Description:

A spectacular spring bloomer, with very showy pink to purple flowers held tightly on bare branches in early spring; somewhat coarse heart-shaped leaves; rivals any small ornamental tree for specimen use in the home landscape

Ornamental Features

Redbud, Eastern has rose pea-like flowers along the branches from early to mid spring, which emerge from distinctive fuchsia flower buds before the leaves. It has forest green deciduous foliage which emerges burgundy in spring. The heart-shaped leaves turn buttery yellow in fall.



Redbud, Eastern flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Redbud, Eastern is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. 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. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Redbud, Eastern is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



Redbud, Eastern flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Redbud, Eastern will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. 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 species is native to parts of North America.

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.