



Information & photos courtesy of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <https://www.wildflower.org/>
and The Missouri Botanic Garden <https://www.mortonarb.org/>

Cercis canadensis - Eastern Redbud, Redbud

Fabaceae (Pea Family)

Deciduous tree with short trunk, rounded crown of spreading branches, and pink flowers that cover the twigs in spring. Redbud is a 15-30 ft. tree with one to several picturesque, maroon-purple trunks and a wide, umbrella-like crown. Its pink flowers, borne in tight clusters along the stems and branches before new leaves appear, create a showy spring display. Smooth, heart-shaped, deciduous foliage does not have significant fall color. Trees from the southern part of the species' range have smaller, glossier leaves and often a more compact form. Stunning tiny pink flower clusters cover the entire tree.

Plant Characteristics

Duration: Perennial **Habit:** Small tree

Leaf Complexity: Simple

Flower arrangement, shape, and size: Pink, before the leaves

Bloom Time: Mar, April, May

Zone: 4 to 8

Height: 20.00 to 30.00 feet

Spread: 25.00 to 35.00 feet

USA: AL , AR , CT , DC , DE , FL , GA , IA , IL , IN , KS , KY , LA , MA , MD , MI , MO , MS , NC , NE , NJ , NM , NY , OH , OK , PA , SC , TN , TX , VA , WV

Native Distribution: FL to TX, n. to PA, OH, s. MI, s. IA & s.e. NE, south to Veracruz in eastern Mexico

Native Habitat: Woods; stream banks; limestone bluffs

Growth Rate: Fast

Light Requirement: Full sun to Part shade

Soil pH: Acidic (pH<6.8)

Soil Description: Moist.

Conditions Comments: Very flood tolerant. Deer, Clay Soil, Black Walnut.

Propagation

Description: The simplest way to grow redbuds is to scarify seeds and plant outdoors in the fall. Cuttings are nearly impossible. Seedlings which may develop around mature trees are easily moved when very small.

Seed Collection: Harvest legumes when they turn brown and begin to dry. Early collection may minimize weevil damage. Collect large amounts to compensate for a high percentage of unsound seed. Air-dry seeds and store in sealed, refrigerated containers.

Seed Treatment: Scarify for 10-20 minutes in concentrated sulfuric acid, then stratify for 30-60 days at 41 degrees.

Commercially Avail: Yes

Benefit

Use Food: Add flowers and flower buds to salads, breads and pancakes. They have a slightly sour taste, high in vitamin C. Young pods may be eaten raw, boiled or sauteed. (Tull)

Use Other: Boiled in water, redbud twigs produce a yellow dye. (Kershaw)

Conspicuous Flowers: yes

Fragrant Flowers: yes

Attracts: Birds, butterflies and pollinators

Value to Beneficial Insects

Special Value to Native Bees

Special Value to Bumble Bees

Valuable to HoneyBees - Lindtner scores Redbud as 2 stars (out of 5) for Pollen and Nectar collection. Pollen pellets are creamy-white.

Provides Nesting Materials/Structure for Native Bees

This information was provided by the Pollinator Program at **The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation**.