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# Redbud, Eastern *Cercis canadensis*

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**Redbud**, flowers are welcome harbingers of spring. Redbuds are common in the woodlands of eastern United States and add a graceful touch of beauty when planted in home landscapes and parks. Redbuds are appreciated by early nectar-seeking insects, including several species of butterflies. A variety of birds enjoy the seeds during winter.

**FORM:** A small tree maturing at under 35 feet, branching into irregularly-shaped limbs close to the ground. Rounded or sometimes flat crown, generally as wide as it is tall.



**ROOTS:** The root system of eastern redbud is long & coarse with a relatively small number of fine feeder roots near the surface.

**FRUITS:** Shiny reddish-brown pods 2-3 inches long & 1/2 inch wide persist on the tree throughout winter..



**FLOWERS:** Pink, sometimes with a purplish tinge, and about 1/2 inch long on 1/2 inch pedicel appear on twigs before leaves emerge, growing in bunches of 4-8.



**BARK:** Smooth dark gray/ brown bark furrowing with age.



**LEAVES:** Alternate and somewhat heart-shaped with smooth margins. 2-6 inches long and wide. Reddish as they emerge, becoming dark green, then yellow in autumn.

**PLANTING:** Grows best in moist, well-drained, deep soils, but is adaptable to other conditions (except perpetually wet sites). Plant in full sun or lightly shaded areas. Suitable for hardiness zones 4-9.