

Eastern Redbud *Cercis canadensis*

Redbud flowers are welcome harbingers of spring. Redbuds are common in the woodlands of the 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. This tree rarely lives past 30 years.

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.

FRUIT: 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. Flowers appear on twigs before leaves emerge, in bunches of 4-8.



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



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

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.