



Cercis canadensis

Eastern redbud, North American Redbud, Canadian redbud, Judas tree



Cercis canadensis (North American redbud) is found in the temperate deciduous forests in the eastern United States and in a small area of Mexico. *Cercis canadensis* often grows on forest edges but, along with *Cornus florida*, this tree is also found in the shrub layer of damp deciduous forests. Here, it grows sheltered by, amongst others, *Acer rubrum*, *Carya ovata* and *Quercus alba*. It has an irregularly round crown and is fairly densely branched but open in shadier sites. This naturally multi-stem or irregular single stem tree reaches a height of eight to twelve metres, five to seven metres wide.

Just before the foliage emerges in May, *Cercis canadensis* produces spectacular clusters of four to eight papilionaceous flowers. The magenta pink flowers completely cover the zigzagging black branches and black-grey peeling trunk and together make a stunning colour contrast. As a result, in springtime this tree hums with insects after the nectar. The flowers are also suitable for human consumption, fresh or fried. The broadly heart-shaped and matt, bronze-green emerging foliage has a pointed tip, changing to bright green in the summer, and finishes off a lovely warm yellow in the autumn. The ten-centimetre-long green seed pods appear in the autumn before turning violet purple and then brown to black. They remain hanging on the tree virtually the entire winter.

Compared with *Cercis siliquastrum*, *Cercis canadensis* has far greater frost resistance. The species is quite tolerant of shade and drought but does not like wet soils. The North American redbud grows best in warm locations - with protection from the wind - and on nutrient-rich soils. But it will also survive on chalky and dry soils, provided there are plenty of nutrients available. The species can even be planted as a pioneer on poorer soils since it fixes nitrogen with its roots. In parks, urban planting schemes and gardens, *Cercis canadensis* has something to offer in every season.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, characteristic trees | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, small garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none | **Planting concepts:** Climate planting, Prairie planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: flattened spherical | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 8 - 12 m | **Width:** 5 - 7 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 4A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** very dry, dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, nectar value 4, pollen value 0 | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: papilionaceous, striking, small, scented | **Flower colour:** pink-violet | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, bright green | **Leaves:** deciduous, cordate, matt polished, smooth, undulate, Nitrogen fixing | **Autumn colour:** yellow, yellow-orange, orange-red | **Fruits:** striking, pod | **Fruit colour:** red-brown | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** peeling, furrowed | **Twig colour:** brown-violet | **Twigs:** bare, zigzagging | **Root system:** deep, extensive, coarse roots