# 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

jan	feb	mar	apr	mei	jun	jul	aug	sep	okt	nov	dec

#### 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, urban 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, flower-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



