

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

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