

# *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy'

## Redbud Forest Pansy, Forest Pansy Eastern redbud



*Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' (red-leaved redbud) is one of the most striking cultivars of the North American redbud on account of the beautiful year-round red foliage. This selection was released in 1947 by Forest Nursery in McMinnville, Tennessee, United States. *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' grows as an irregular large shrub, small multi-stem tree or irregular standard with a round crown. The cultivar ultimately reaches a height of between 6 and 9 metres, 6 to 10 metres wide.

Before the foliage emerges, the typical pale pink papilionaceous flowers appear in small clusters, spread over the trunk and branches. Bees and butterflies are attracted to this pink cloud in the spring in search of nectar. The heart-shaped leaf emerges an exceptional dark violet to almost violet black and is roundish with a pointed tip. The foliage then becomes duller and turns deep red-violet. When the weather gets warmer in the summer, the foliage changes to dark green to violet green - in the autumn it ends up a spectacular blend of red, yellow and orange hues. In the autumn, the pods appear and they persist on the tree all winter brown in colour. *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' has violet brown twigs which later change colour to grey-brown. The trunk is also grey-brown and smooth, and peels off in chunks as the tree matures.

Just like the main species, this cultivar prefers nutrient-rich and moist sandy or loamy soils. Light shade is tolerated but sunny and sheltered sites are favoured. Paving is not tolerated: the red-leaved redbud can, therefore, only be used as a street tree if the growing site is compatible. It also looks even finer as underplanting for a road verge, garden or park. In these locations, *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' makes a wonderful single specimen in spring with its red foliage colour and striking blossom.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

### USE

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

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** flattened spherical | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 6 - 9 m | **Width:** 8 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 4A - 9B

### ASPECTS

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

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** raceme, papilionaceous, striking, singular, small | **Flower colour:** dark pink | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** buds red, dark red-violet | **Leaves:** deciduous, cordate, Nitrogen fixing | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange, orange-red, red-violet | **Fruits:** striking, pod | **Fruit colour:** red-brown | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** peeling, slightly furrowed, smooth | **Twig colour:** brown-violet | **Twigs:** bare, zigzagging, horizontal branches | **Root system:** deep, extensive, coarse roots