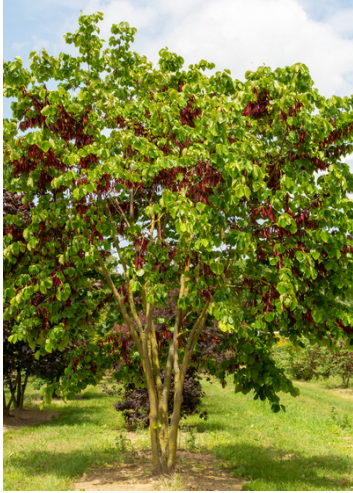


Cercis chinensis

Chinese Redbud



Cercis chinensis (Chinese redbud) is native to China, Korea and Japan. Here, it is found in the undergrowth of mixed deciduous forests with, amongst others, *Quercus acutissima*, *Liquidambar formosana* and *Acer griseum*. It has a multi-stem habit with a vase-shaped to rounded crown. In cultivation, this large shrub or small tree ultimately reaches a height of three to five metres, two to four metres wide. In the wild, the Chinese redbud can however become a substantial shrub fifteen metres tall.

The foliage of *Cercis chinensis* is heart-shaped, glossy and bright green. In the autumn the leaves change to golden yellow. The leaf is as wide as it is long, ending in a sharp point, which makes it easy to distinguish from *Cercis siliquastrum*. Juvenile foliage has a glossy underside. In May, the Chinese redbud is adorned with trusses of small, pea-like flowers in hues of pink to lavender. These flowers grow directly on the branches and trunk. The small, flattened seed capsules which appear after the blossom are dark brown and persist through the winter.

Cercis chinensis prefers warm summers. So, for best growth, give the tree a warm, sunny and sheltered growing site on free-draining, fertile soil with a slightly acid to neutral pH value. Although the Chinese redbud tolerates drought once established, it performs best in constantly moist ground. Tolerant of partial shade. Its small size makes *Cercis chinensis* ideal for courtyards, patios and town gardens, where space may be limited. More importantly, this graceful tree attracts pollinators such as bees and butterflies, and has something to offer in every season.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

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

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 3 - 5 m | **Width:** 2 - 4 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 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:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, birds | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

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