

REDBUD TREE

Cercis canadensis

This is a small, deciduous tree to twenty feet tall or more. It is popular in gardens throughout most of the eastern United States. An abundance of small pink, pea-like flowers are showy in early spring. Numerous selections with pendant branches, leaf colors, and variations on the flower color are available in the nursery trade. Redbuds look best in a reasonably moist, well-drained soil but it is drought tolerant once established. It tolerates sun or part shade. It is reported to be salt sensitive. It is recommended for zones 4 to 9.

Redbuds generally flower before the leaves are produced, as early as early February in middle zone 9a and from late February to early April in upper zone 9a. Leaves begin to emerge around mid- to late March, usually before flowering ends. Plants are deciduous in mid- to late November through March. Brown seed pods persist after the leaves fall and often distribute seeds that freely germinate in the garden. Easily transplanted, they can decorate the neighborhood with lovely, tough flowering trees.

