

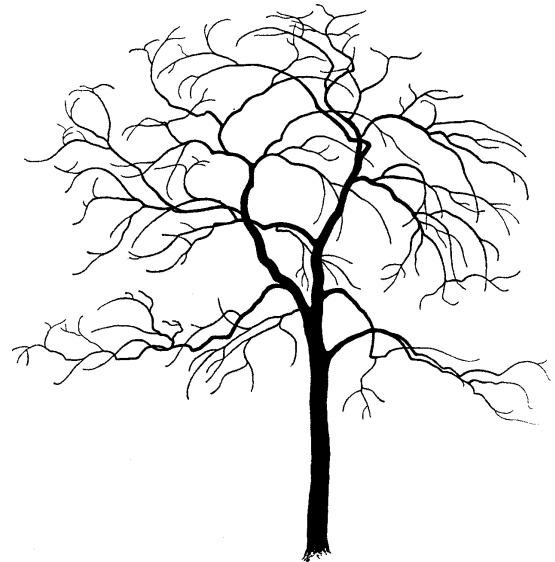


Redbud

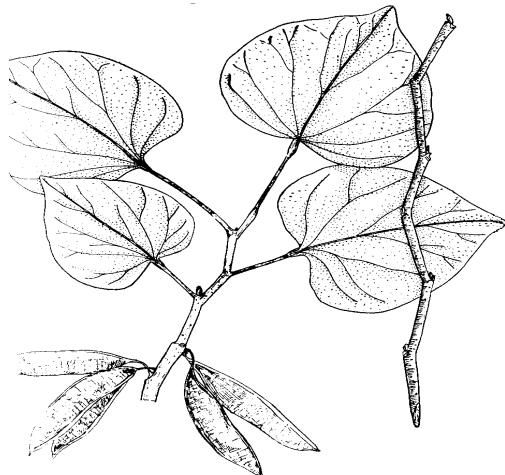
Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is one of the most subtly attractive small native trees. This species has small white, pink, or purple flowers in spring, deep green leaves in the summer. Fall coloration can be a bright yellow but is usually a dull yellow green. Redbud can be attractive when mixed with dogwood or other spring flowering trees especially in woodland or naturalized landscapes. It is also very desirable near houses since it is in scale with most one-story homes.

Growth and flowering is best in full sun or light shade. When planted in the full sun, redbud must be watered regularly during periods of drought. Soils should be well drained, but young trees will adapt to all but constantly wet sites. It is tolerant of a wide range of soil pH values from 4.5 to 7.5.

When young the growth rate of redbud is moderate to fast, as it matures the growth rate slows. Redbud will grow to 30' with a branch spread of 25'. Maximum growth is achieved with regular fertilization and watering. Redbud can tolerate both heat and cold as long as the change is not too fast. It is grown from Minnesota's zone 4 south to Texas' zone 9.



Cankers are the most serious disease problem of redbud. These fungi infect major limbs and the trunk cutting off the flow of nutrients. Most canker fungi require that the tree be under stress and have an open wound for infection. The most common stress factor is summer drought. Verticillium wilt is another disease that produces very similar symptoms to cankers. Both of these diseases are first seen as single limb dieback that may spread to the entire tree. Verticillium infects roots and spreads to the stem. Several leaf spot fungi including anthracnose attack this species especially during wet springs.



Old trees are often attacked by wood boring insects. These insects are first noticed from the frass that accumulates at the base of the tree or sap oozing from holes in the bark. A number of leaf-feeding insects are also attracted to redbud. These include tent caterpillar,

leafhoppers, treehoppers, leafrollers, weevils and other caterpillars. Branches are often attacked by scale insects including greedy, oleander, leucanium and terrapin.

Structural pruning is required on most young redbuds to ensure that their shape is attractive and strong at maturity. Pruning should remove dead, dying and diseased limbs as well as weak crotches and crossing limbs. The breakage of weak branches is one of the leading causes of tree loss in this species.

In some years seed production can be a problem. Heavy pod set along branches produces an untidy appearance. When planted in mulched or naturalized areas, germinating seeds can produce a wealth of young trees.

Recommended Monitoring of Redbud

Timing	Treatment
Late Winter	Prune out dead and diseased twigs and branches. Inspect root collar: Excavate mulch and soil to expose flare as necessary. Apply additional mulch as necessary. Treat scales if present.
Mid Spring	Apply fungicide treatment to suppress anthracnose and leaf spots if needed. Monitor for borer, scales and caterpillar defoliators. Treat as necessary including preventive borer sprays.
Late Spring	Apply fungicide treatment to suppress anthracnose and leafspots if needed. Monitor for borer, caterpillar, and sucking insects. Treat as necessary. Sample soil for nutrient levels and pH especially if deficiency symptoms are present.
Early Summer	Prune to correct structural problems after flowering. Monitor irrigation and soil moisture to reduce water stress and prevent root disease. Retreat borers if needed. Corrective prune crown and remove watersprouts as necessary.
Mid-Summer	Monitor for insects, irrigation and soil moisture problems.
Fall	Fertilize and apply amendments per soil test results. Inspect root collar and excavate soil and mulch to expose flare. Inspect irrigation

Selecting a Redbud

There are a number of varieties of redbud available as well as several closely related species. When selecting a tree for northern areas, select only northern strains such as those from Wisconsin or Minnesota. In dry areas select western strains.

'Forest Pansy'	Purple leaves and flowers, hardy from zones 6 to 9.
'Alba'	White flowering.
'Pinkbud'	Pink flowering, western strain.
'Royal white'	White flowering, northern strain.
Chinese redbud.	Rosy purple flowers, shrub form, <10', zones 6-9
Western redbud	California native, zone 7, tree or shrub form grows to 12'.
'Oklahoma' redbud.	Waxy dark green leaves, western strain, dark red flowers.
'Texas White'.	White flowering similar to 'Oklahoma'