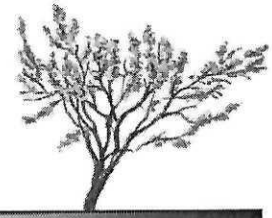


# EASTERN REDBUD<sup>219</sup>

## *Cercis canadensis*



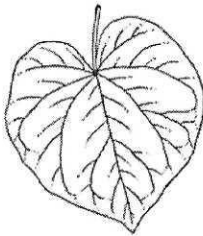
Eastern redbud trees have short trunks and rounded crowns of spreading branches. It is very showy in early spring with its leafless twigs covered with pink flowers.

### Mature Height and Form

In a wooded situation redbud tends to grow tall with few limbs. When redbud is growing at the woods edge, the most common situation, it will develop a much shorter trunk and a fuller branched crown.

### Best Planting Site

Moist soils of valleys and slopes. Redbud will grow on all but the driest sites, but growth is more rapid on moist fertile soils. It will not tolerate wet soils.

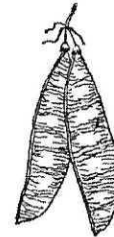


### Leaves

The broad heart-shaped leaves are 3" to 5" wide with a pointed tip. They are dull green above and paler sometimes hairy beneath. They turn yellow in autumn.

### Fruit

The fruit is flat narrow oblong pods that are 1 ½" to 3 ¼" long. The seed inside these pods resemble a lentil and has a very hard seedcoat.



### Flowers

The flowers are ½" long, pea-shaped, with 5 purplish-pink petals. The flowers appear in clusters of 4 to 8 on slender stalks in early spring before leaves.



### Uses

This tree provides excellent wildlife cover and a food source. It is also planted for its attractive flowers and foliage.



Illustrations taken from: Brockman/Merrilees. "Trees of North America." 1968; "USDA Forest Service Collection". <http://www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/USDA/USDA.html> . USDA Forest Service, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation and Carnegie Mellon University. April 30, 2004.