

Cercis canadensis

Eastern Redbud

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

In early spring, copious clusters of fabulous pink to fuchsia flowers hug bare branches in a rare occurrence called [cauliflory](#). This understory tree with heart-shaped leaves is found in mixed forests in the Mid-Atlantic Region* from southern Pennsylvania through Virginia. The Virginia Native Plant Society named Eastern Redbud as Wildflower of the Year for 2013.



Tree	Spring Tree, Buds and Flowers, Fruit	
Height: 15–30 feet		
Spread: 20–35 feet		
Bloom Color: Pink to purple		
Characteristics		
Short-trunked, deciduous tree with thick spreading branches and umbrella-like crown		
Alternate , palmately-veined , heart-shaped, smooth-edged, glabrous leaves turn yellow in fall	  	
Umbellate clusters of pea-shaped flowers along bare branches appear before leaves April and May		
Snow-pea-like seed pods (legumes) appear from May to December, ripening from green to brown		
Smooth brown bark , later ridged and furrowed		
Attributes		
Tolerates clay soil and Black Walnut; susceptible to diseases like canker, anthracnose, verticillium wilt as well as occasional pest problems; deer occasionally-to-frequently severely damage		
Flowers and young seed pods said to be edible		
Attracts butterflies to flowers; birds & mammals to seeds; larval host for Henry's Elfin & Io moth		
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for	
Soil Requirements : Average, well-drained	<i>Acer ginnala</i> & <i>A. platanoides</i> - Amur & Norway Maples	
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade, Shade	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i> - Mimosa / Silk Tree	
Water Requirements : Moist	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> - Golden Raintree	
Plant young trees; deep taproots transplant poorly	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> - Princess Tree	
Keep soil moist; prune dead branches promptly	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> - Callery ('Bradford') Pear	
Use as specimen, lawn or patio tree or naturalized	*It is native to DC and southern PA. Its status in DE is historical. In VA, it is common in the mountains and the Piedmont and infrequent in the Coastal Plain.	
Hardiness : USDA Zones 4–8		
<i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i>		

Images by Mary Free, Quarry Shade Garden and from *Creating Inviting Habitats*