



Overview

- The Eastern Redbud is an important nectar source to early-season insects.
- The Eastern Redbuds has hard and heavy wood, but not strong, so it is not used commercially.

Tree Details

They can grow 20-30 feet tall and 15-25 feet wide at maturity.

The twigs are slender and zigzag with green buds that eventually turn dark brown.

Redbud flowers are usually pink to reddish purple in color.

Eastern Redbud

Kingdom: Plantae

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

Genus: Cercis



Eastern Redbud in Agriculture

- The Eastern Redbud helps expand biodiversity due to the trees' nectar and blossoms that are essential for many insects and birds.
- The tree's flowers, twigs and buds are edible, and livestock can graze on the foliage.

History

- Native Americans boiled the bark to make tea and used the bark for many medical treatments. They would also fry and eat the flowers.
- Thomas Jefferson and George Washington both planted the tree at their homes for its beauty.
- The Eastern Redbud was one of the first trees that settlers found in the western expansion. It was first cultivated in 1811 by the Spaniards.

Sources:

1. <https://www.tnnursery.net/pages/the-legacy-of-the-redbud-tree>
2. https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/DocumentLibrary/factsheet/pdf/fs_ceca4.pdf
3. <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/cercis-canadensis/>
4. <https://www.arborday.org/video/tree-overview-eastern-redbud>

