

# AgBark



A series of tree insights

*Did you know?*

The Eastern Redbud is one of the first trees to bloom in the spring.

## 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](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>