



● Other redbuds in the collection

National Collection

The redbud (*Cercis*) collection at the JCRA is one of the most comprehensive in North America with 53 taxa. It was designated a national collection by the North American Plant Collections Consortium in 2008. Redbuds occur throughout the northern hemisphere in the eastern and southwestern United States, Mexico, Asia, southern Europe, and parts of the Middle East. This collection contains species from all of these regions with a special emphasis on our native eastern redbud (*C. canadensis*). Wherever they are found, redbuds are cherished for their spring pea-like flowers in shades of pink, purple, or white and their distinctive heart-shaped, deciduous leaves.

Redbud Culture

Eastern redbud has long been admired for its beauty as a small tree or large shrub, since being introduced into cultivation in 1641. Easy to grow, they perform best in full sun to part shade in moist, but well-drained soils.

1. Chinese Redbud

(*Cercis chinensis* 'Kay's Early Hope') – Bed W10. Admired for many years at the JCRA, this selection was named in 2008 for the incomparable Kay Yow, NC State University's great women's basketball coach. Distinguished from other redbuds by the large volume of pinkish-lavender flowers it produces, appropriately enough just in time for the basketball tournaments. It is one of the first to begin flowering at the JCRA and one of the last to finish. Its upright, multi-stemmed habit is typical of Chinese redbuds.

2. Judas tree

(*Cercis siliquastrum* 'Bodnant') – Bed D05. The Mediterranean "Judas tree" is Europe's equivalent to our native eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*). 'Bodnant' is a superb cultivar with flowers that are a rich violet-pink, darker than any other redbud, except perhaps 'Oklahoma'. Named for the famous garden in north Wales where it was discovered.

3. Variegated Eastern Redbuds

(*Cercis canadensis* 'Silver Cloud' – Bed C02 & A15 and **'Floating Clouds'** – Bed A12 & E12) The first variegated selection, 'Silver Cloud', was introduced in 1964 by Yew Dell Nursery in Kentucky. It has lovely arching branches with leaves that appear to be "splotted" with white. Unfortunately, the color washes out in summer. 'Floating Clouds' has proved to be superior at the JCRA. Leaves have a creamy variegation pattern that's maintained most of summer. Its habit is more upright and branches have a slight twisty pattern.

4. Double-flowered Eastern Redbud

(*Cercis canadensis* 'Flame') – Bed C01. 'Flame' was discovered in Illinois in 1902 and bears large, profuse light pink, double flowers. Nearly fruitless, it is very vigorous with great form and excellent fall color. It generally flowers about a week later than other redbuds.

5. Eastern Redbud

(*Cercis canadensis* 'Tennessee Pink') – Bed A14 & P01. Introduced by Hidden Hollow Nursery in Tennessee, this introduction has fantastic, true clear, pink flowers.

6. Smooth Redbud

(*Cercis glabra* 'Celestial Plum') – Bed A13. This JCRA introduction was thought to be lost from cultivation at one point. It was selected for its blue-green foliage and loads of exceptional light plum-purple flowers in early spring. Heart-shaped leaves soon follow on a small, multi-trunk tree. You may still find it listed in the trade by its original name, *Cercis yunnanensis* 'Celestial Plum'.

7. Red Chinese Redbud

(*Cercis chinensis* 'Shibamichi Red') – Bed A07. This brand new Chinese redbud from Shibamichi Nursery in Japan has one of the deepest pink-red flowers to be found on a redbud.

8. Weeping Texas Redbud

(*C. canadensis* subsp. *texensis* 'Traveller') Bed C13 & E43a. From the western part of our eastern redbud's native range comes this gorgeous, heat and drought tolerant Texas native. In spring, thick arching branches are covered with intensely pink flowers. It has a mounding form with leaves that are thick, glossy, and dark green all summer. The specimen near the Necessary was grafted high and gives a totally different cascading effect.

9. Purple-leaf Eastern Redbud

(*Cercis canadensis* [Texensis Group] 'Merlot') – Bed E00. A new JCRA introduction by Dr. Dennis Werner, plant breeder and former arboretum director. Selected for its attractive purple-leaf color and semi-upright growth habit. Abundant bright lavender flowers and superior heat tolerance make this selection a winner.

10. Seedless Chinese Redbud

(*Cercis chinensis* 'Don Egolf') – Bed E00. With prolific, vivid, rosy mauve flowers, this U.S. National Arboretum release is named in honor of renowned breeder, the late Dr. Donald Egolf. Fruitless, slow-growing, and a compact habit make it excellent for the smaller garden.

11. Gold-leaf Eastern Redbud

(*Cercis canadensis* 'Hearts of Gold') – Bed E00. This unique form of our eastern redbud is distinguished by its striking, intense golden-yellow spring foliage that gradually changes to chartreuse as the summer advances. This selection was made by Jon Roethling, a former JCRA employee.

12. Compact Eastern Redbud

(*Cercis canadensis* 'Ace of Hearts') – Bed P01. In recent years, this redbud has garnered much attention. A compact plant that flowers just as heavily as its full-sized relations while keeping its leaves to half the size. The very regular leaf arrangement along the zig-zag stems creates a very tidy plant even after flowering.

13. Mexican Redbud

(*Cercis canadensis* subsp. *mexicana*) – Bed P01, W09, & E33. One of the two distinctive races of eastern redbud in Texas, Oklahoma, and Mexico. This small tree has smaller, more circular leaves, with undulating margins and a smaller, shrubbier form than the typical species. Enjoy the same purple-red flowers as our eastern redbud.

14. Chinese Redbud

(*Cercis chinensis*) – Bed P04. Unlike our native eastern redbud, typically a single trunked tree, Chinese redbud is a small multi-trunked tree with densely crowded, upright stems all arising from a basal crown, creating wand-like columns of bloom. Bright pinkish-purple flowers open along the stems in early spring before the heart-shaped leaves emerge.

15. Chain-flowered Redbud or Wisteria-flowered Redbud (*Cercis racemosa*) – Bed E30.

This Chinese native is best known for its pendulous rose-purple flowers (20 – 40) borne on 2"– 4" long racemes. Reaches 20' tall with a rounded form.

Other *Cercis* in the Collection:

<i>C.</i> 'Big John'	<i>C. canadensis</i> subsp. <i>texensis</i>
<i>C. canadensis</i>	'Oklahoma'
<i>C. canadensis</i> f. <i>alba</i>	<i>C. canadensis</i> ('Tennessee Pink' variegated)
<i>C. canadensis</i> 'Amethyst Mist'	<i>C. canadensis</i> 'Tom Thumb'
<i>C. canadensis</i> 'Covey'	<i>C. chinensis</i> f. <i>alba</i>
<i>C. canadensis</i> 'Dwarf White'	<i>C. chinensis</i> (dwarf form)
<i>C. canadensis</i> 'Forest Pansy'	<i>C. chinensis</i> 'Shirobana'
<i>C. canadensis</i> subsp. <i>mexicana</i>	<i>C. chingii</i>
(Sanderson selection)	<i>C. aff. gigantea</i>
<i>C. canadensis</i> (NCSU upright)	<i>C. gigantea</i> (pale flower)
<i>C. canadensis</i> 'Little Woody'	<i>C. glabra</i>
<i>C. canadensis</i> 'Pinkbud'	<i>C. aff. glabra</i>
<i>C. canadensis</i> 'Royal White'	<i>C.</i> 'Gold Crown'
<i>C. canadensis</i> 'Ruby Falls'	<i>C. griffithii</i>
	<i>C.</i> (hybrid)
	<i>C. siliquastrum</i>

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