

Red Bud (Redbud, Eastern Redbud)

This is a specimen tree which is particularly appropriate for a residence or park. It is especially attractive paired with evergreens or when several of these trees are planted together. The tree provides nice shade and works well near a patio. This relatively small tree reaches a mature height of 20-30 feet with a width of 15-25 feet. A rounded vase shape characterizes the tree and there may be more than one trunk. In April beautiful, profuse, rosy-pink flowers appear in clusters and attract butterflies. These clusters appear even on the branches and trunk of the tree. George Washington planted many of these trees and noted the beauty of the Red Bud tree frequently in his diary. The oval leaves of the tree are about 3-5 inches in length and appear reddish at first, change to a dark green in summer, and yellow in autumn. The tree's 2-3-inch pods remain into the winter.

There are several cultivars of the Red Bud. For example, the Lavender Twist Red Bud is a weeping form and the Ace of Hearts is a dwarf of about 12-15 feet in height. Red Buds do well in full sun or partial shade. They are intolerant of salt and benefit from organic mulch spread out to their drip line. The trees have a shallow root system and thus, may need additional water during draught conditions. They grow at a moderate rate and have a life expectancy of about 20-25 years.

If you would like to see some of these trees, two Red Buds will be planted in Waterfront Park as part of the 2018 spring planting for the City of Ludington.





