

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE TREE INFO CARD

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Get to know your tree:

The eastern redbud is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, heart-shaped leaves. Fall leaf color is typically a golden yellow. Flowers are small, pink, and emerge in clusters along the branches and sometimes the trunk of the tree. Fruits are long seed pods that are green or red in color and turn brown with age. Seed pods may persist through winter. Bark is grey with orange-red furrows, becoming scaly with age.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter redbud provides approximately \$9.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 11 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger redbuds, visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

The flowers of this species can be eaten fresh, fried, or boiled. The green twigs are also used as a spice, giving this tree the nickname of “spicewood.”

George Washington wrote extensively of the redbud’s beauty in his diaries and cared for several redbud trees in his gardens.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Redbuds may grow to heights of 15-30 feet, with a spread of around 20-35 feet. This species does well in most soil types.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arboday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there’s no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it’s moist, there’s no need to water. But if it’s dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



www.a2gov.org/10ktrees