

The Redbud Collection

Columbus Park of Roses
Recreation and Parks Department
Columbus, OH
2025

There are several varieties of redbud trees. Native to Ohio is the Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) which grows in the eastern and central parts of the United States. Redbuds are popular because of the beautiful early bloom on bare branches. The straight species is an understory tree that is often multi-trunked. Seeds are produced in bean-like pods that turn brown in summer. Several cultivars have been developed and the Redbud collection at the CPOR includes 12 cultivars and the straight species.

This self-guided tour begins behind the shelter house. Walk east alongside the flagpole flower bed. Almost immediately, you will see a Black Maple tree on your left. In the area of the garden, to your left, across from the Perennial Garden there are five species of Eastern Redbud.

'Carolina Sweetheart' (*Cercis canadensis*)



- Bright pink to purple flowers
- Grows to 12-24' tall in a rounded shape
- Variegated leaves are unusual
- Full sun to part shade in well-drained soils; doesn't do as well in poor soils as do other redbud trees

'Alley Cat' Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)



- Flowers are pink; leaves white mottled
- Grows to 20' tall and wide
- Full sun to part shade
- Light, moist, nutrient-rich soil

'Golden Falls' (*Cercis canadensis*)



- Lavender-pink flowers
- Grows to 8-10' tall by 3-4' wide
- Has a narrow, weeping form
- New leaves in spring tinged with orange, becoming bright golden

'Appalachian Red' (*Cercis canadensis*) You will pass a second 'Appalachian Red' shortly.



- Bright pink and magenta colored flowers
- Grows to 20' high by 25' wide
- Upright form

Minnesota State Strain Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)



- Magenta-colored flowers
- Grows to 25' tall and 30' wide in a rounded form
- Has a low canopy, typically about 3' from the ground
- Developed at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum to survive through tough winters
- This smallish ornamental tree (or large shrub) can be shaped either on a single stem or on multiple stems.

Continue east on the pathway going toward the Herb Garden. Turn left at the next opportunity. When you reach the next corner, look to your left and you will see the second 'Appalachian Red' which is NW of the fountain in the corner planting.

Walk north, past the fountain, taking the path to your left. Once beyond the fountain, you will be at the edge of the North Arbor. Here you find the next two species.

'The Rising Sun' (*Cecis canadensis*). This is a larger tree on the west side of the north arbor.



- Magenta-colored flowers
- Grows to 25' tall and wide
- Upright form
- Stunning yellow leaves that retain that color throughout the summer
- Full sun best, light shade acceptable

Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is seen on the east side of the north arbor.



- Magenta-colored flowers
- Grows to 25' tall by 25' wide
- This is a mature straight specimen of the Eastern Redbud. Part of it had to be removed from damage caused by visitors.
- Drought-resistant once established
- Does well in low-nutrient soils (can grow in acidic, alkaline, loamy, moist, rich, sandy and clay soils)

Continue east past both the Long Mall and the Circle Beds, entering the Heritage Rose Garden. The curving pathway goes by a Black Walnut tree on your left. Look to your left and right to see the next two species.

Lavender Twist Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Covey') is seen on the left (north) side of the pathway.



- Rosy lavender-pink flowers cover weeping branches in early spring.
- Grows 5-6' tall and 6-8' wide



'Vanilla Twist' (*Cercis canadensis*) is on the right (south) side of the pathway.



- White flowers
- Grows 8'-12' tall and 8' wide
- Weeping form



The final two specimens are in the Backyard Garden. So, backtrack through the gardens to the west until you come to the kiosk outside the Backyard Garden. Walk to the north section of the garden.



'Ruby Falls' (*Cercis canadensis*) is at the north end of the Backyard Garden.

- Lavender spring flowers
- Grows to 6-10' tall by 5-6' wide
- Weeping form
- Maroon to deep green to purple leaves
- Full sun to part shade

From here, if you look outside the garden, across the split rail fence, you will find the final specimen.

'Black Pearl' (*Cercis canadensis*)



- Lavender-pink flowers
- Grows to 15-20' tall and 20-25' wide
- Maroon-colored leaves turn shades of chartreuse yellow in fall
- Full sun to part shade

We hope you have enjoyed seeing the Redbud collection.