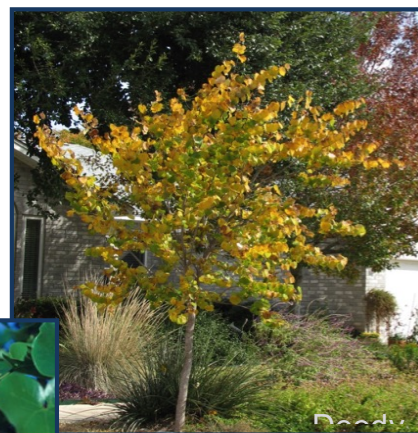


NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Lindheimer Chapter

PLANT OF THE MONTH JANUARY, 2023, No. 2

TEXAS REDBUD, *CERCIS CANADENSIS VAR TEXENSIS*



Texas Redbud is a small deciduous understory tree native to southern Oklahoma through central Texas down to northern Mexico. However, it is cold hard as far north and through USDA Hardiness Zones 6 which stretches across much of the central USA. Under favorable conditions it can grow to 25' tall, although it is more typically 10' to 15'. It has a medium growth rate. This ornamental tree is known for its pink/purple blossoms in early spring (March – April). This tree introduces the start of Spring in Texas like the Flowering Dogwood does in states east of the Miss. River. Leaves are heart-shaped (a key for identification), usually appearing after the blooms, sometimes as it is flowering and provide Fall color.

Texas redbud likes full sun or part shade, dry soils, low to medium water usage but not saturated soil conditions. Very drought tolerant. If needed, prune for shape or to raise canopy. Refrain from trimming in late winter, as blooms form on stems in early spring. Remove suckers.

The nectar is sought after by butterflies, bees, moths, & insects. The leaves are sometimes browsed by deer. The seeds are eaten birds. The flowers are fried in Mexico & are sometimes pickled for salads.

In addition to the Texas Redbud, there are two other types of redbud trees in the Genus *Cercis* native to Texas: The Mexican Redbud (*var Mexicana*), a shrubbier smaller version even more drought tolerant found in west Texas and the Eastern Redbud (*cercis canadensis*) that tends to be larger than the Texas Redbud, with larger and brighter green leaves. It also likes more moisture and more acidic soil found in east Texas. The Texas Redbud can readily be found in nurseries that sell selected native plants.

Texas Redbud is a NPSOT Lindheimer Chapter NICE! 2023 Spring Native Plant selection.