

Eastern Redbud

(Cercis canadensis)

George Washington planted these native flowering trees in his garden at Mount Vernon. An early spring bloomer, the buds are reddish purple and open to a striking rosy pink on the naked branches. The large heart-shaped leaves turn bright yellow in the autumn and the 2-3 inch shiny seed pods remain on the boughs throughout winter. The Redbud will tolerate damp conditions. An understory tree, Redbuds can grow to 20-30 feet tall with a spread of 25-35 feet, and are very effective as a mass planting. In Mexico, the flower buds are fried and eaten as a delicacy.

