Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Black Pearl™ Redbud

Cercis canadensis 'JN16'



Black Pearl Redbud foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Eastern Redbud, Judas Tree, Love Tree

Description:

A spectacular and hardy spring bloomer, with showy lavender pink flowers held tightly on bare branches in early spring; red foliage emerges and then matures to deep maroon; chartreuse-yellow fall color; a great small tree for specimen use in the landscape

Ornamental Features

Black Pearl Redbud has lavender pea-like flowers with pink overtones along the branches in early spring before the leaves. It has attractive deep purple foliage with rose undersides and tinges of burgundy which emerges brick red in spring. The heart-shaped leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of chartreuse and in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Black Pearl Redbud is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Black Pearl Redbud is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Black Pearl Redbud will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.