

redbud *Cercis canadensis*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Fabales

Family: Fabaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The redbud, or Judas tree, is a small deciduous tree that may grow to a height of about 35 feet and have a trunk diameter of one foot. Its bark is red-brown, and it separates into long plates and thin scales. The simple leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. Each heart-shaped leaf may grow to six inches long and almost that wide. The upper leaf surface is smooth while the lower surface is smooth or has some hairs. The edges of the leaves are smooth. The rose-purple flowers are in clusters on last year's branches or on the trunk. The fruit is a pod that may be four inches long and one-half inch wide. It contains several seeds.

BEHAVIORS

The redbud may be found most commonly in the southern two-thirds of Illinois. This tree grows in rich woods. The redbud flowers in April and May when its leaves are beginning to unfold. It is often grown as an ornamental tree for its beautiful flowers.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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