

ID #: 520

Owner: City of McAlester—Ardeneum of Oklahoma

Circumference: 39 inches

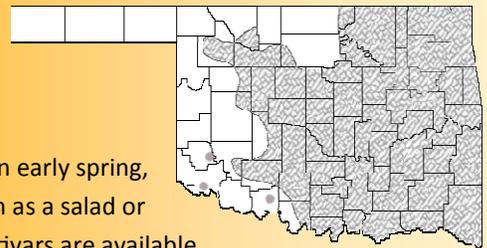
Height: 29 feet

Average Crown Spread: 25 feet

Total Points: 74.3



## EASTERN REDBUD (*CERCIS CANADENSIS*)



Eastern redbud, Oklahoma's official state trees, is often grown as an ornamental. In early spring, masses of purplish pink flowers nearly cover the bare twigs. The blossoms can be eaten as a salad or fried. Commonly found in the along the forest edge, it is an understory tree. Many cultivars are available, such as the Oklahoma redbud which has a glossy coating on the leaf allowing it to withstand full sun.

**Small or medium sized** tree 35 feet high, with short trunk 10 inches in diameter and rounded crown of spreading branches. Twigs long, slender, zigzag, brown, hairless. Buds blunt, red brown, with 2 hair scales; no end bud.

**Leaves** in 2 rows, long-stalked, nearly round with broad short point, 2 1/2—4 1/2 inches long and broad, edges not toothed, with 5—9 veins from notched base (heart shaped), dull green and hairless above, beneath paler and sometimes hairy, turning yellow in autumn.

**Flowers** many scattered along old twigs in early spring before leaves, 4—8 in a cluster on slender stalks, pea-shaped, 1/2 inch long, with 5 slightly unequal purplish pink petals (rarely white).

**Fruits** many hanging along twigs, few in cluster, narrowly oblong flat thin pods 2 1/2—3 1/4 inches long, pointed at ends, turning from pink to blackish, splitting open on 1 edge, falling in late autumn or winter. Seeds several, beanlike, flattened, dark brown.

**Bark** dark or brown, smooth, becoming furrowed into scaly plates.

**Wood** dark brown tinged with red, with thin light brown sapwood, fine textured, heavy, hard, without special use.