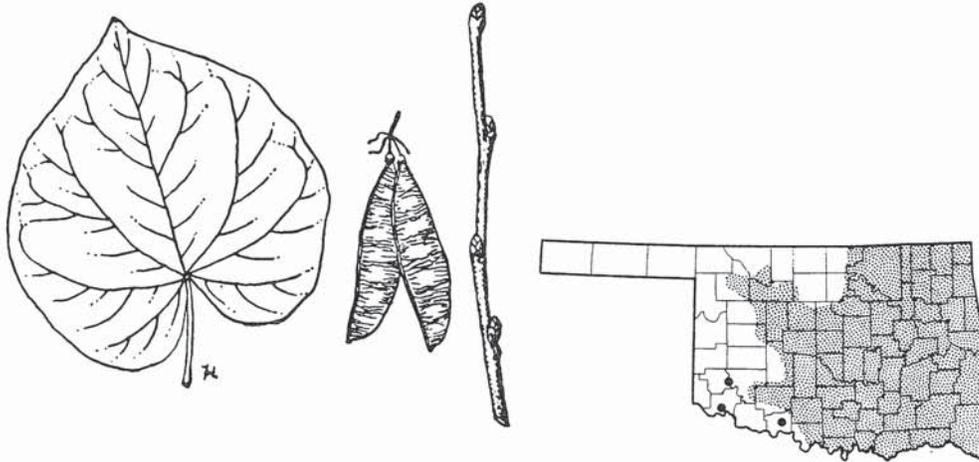


105. EASTERN REDBUD

Cercis canadensis L.; redbud, Judas tree.

Small or medium-sized tree 35 ft (10.7 m) high, with short trunk 10 in (25 cm) 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, $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ in (6-11 cm) long and broad, edges not toothed, with 5-9 veins from notched base, 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, $\frac{1}{2}$ in (13 mm) long, with 5 slightly unequal purplish pink petals (rarely white).

Fruits many hanging along twigs, few in cluster, narrowly oblong flat thin pods $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{4}$ in (6-8 cm) 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.

Common and widespread in moist soil of valleys and slopes, forest understory, Okla. except w. and nw. edges and panhandle. Widespread in understory of hardwood forests, e. half of U.S. except n. border; ne. Mexico. Zone 4.

Eastern redbud, Oklahoma's official state tree, 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.

Texas redbud (var. *texensis* (Wats.) Hopkins; Arbuckle redbud), is a variety distinguished by smaller leaves rounded or slightly notched at tip, slightly thickened, shiny green above, paler and finely hairy beneath. Scattered and local on dry limestone hills in Arbuckle Mts., s. Okla., also Tex., extreme se. N. Mex., and ne. Mexico.