Eastern Redbud (MN Strain)

Tree Type

This tree is deciduous and will lose its foliage for the winter.

Planting

Redbud can be susceptible to periods of extreme cold so plant them where they are semi-protected from the wind. They work well in a shrub border on the edge of naturalized woodland areas.

Watering

Even when established, water the tree once a week during periods of drought. A good thick mulch is recommended to keep the tree from drying out. Refer to watering guidelines on back for specific watering directions.

Pruning

Prune only after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Remove crossing or broken branches to maintain shape.

Preferences

Redbud prefers a minimum of 4 to 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight. Plant in soils with average to moist conditions to prevent the tree from drying out. It is not particular to a 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.

Attributes

This tree is spectacular, hardy spring bloomer, with very showy pink to purple flowers held tightly on bare branches in early spring; somewhat coarse heart-shaped leaves; a top choice small ornamental tree for specimen uses in the northern landscape. Redbud will grow to a modest height of 25 ft with a spread of 30 ft and is suitable for planting under powerlines. The tree has rose pea-like flowers along the branches from early to mid-spring, which emerge from distinctive fuchsia flower buds before the leaves. It has forest green deciduous foliage which emerges burgundy in spring. The heart-shaped leaves turn buttery yellow in fall.

Wildlife Value

Redbud provides early-season nectar and pollen and is highly attractive to long-tongued bees. The bean fruit pods provide food for birds such as quail, cardinals, grosbeaks and turkeys. It provides host plants for over 24 species of butterfly and moth caterpillars.

When newly planted trees go without enough water, growth slows to a crawl. This delays establishment and may even lead to the death of leaves, branches, roots or the whole tree.

For the most part, trees can only take up water from soil that is in direct contact with roots. Even in the best conditions, newly transplanted trees use water from a relatively small volume of soil. To make matters worse, roots of bare root, balled & burlaped, and spaded trees are cut during transplanting.

Within two to three days after spring or summer planting, the soil around the roots of trees dries enough to impede root growth. Newly transplanted trees in the Midwest benefit from daily watering for the first one to two weeks. Apply 1 to 1½ gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter. After that, water trees every two to three days for the next two to three months and then weekly until established. The more closely you match your watering frequency to the optimum, the quicker trees become established.
Reduce watering in cool, cloudy, or wet weather if the soil is poorly drained (soil drains less than 3/4 inches per hour). Eliminate daily irrigation in poorly drained soil.
After it rains, stop watering until the rainwater drains from the soil. Stop watering in the autumn once leaves fall from trees.

Mulch reduces evaporation and conserves water. An investment in frequent watering helps insure against tree death and the cost of replanting trees.