

Botanical Name: Cercis occidentalis

Common Name: Western Redbud

Type of Plant: dicot: tree/shrub Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a picturesque multi-trunked plant, with many slender ascending whitish-gray branches forming a vase-shaped or rounded canopy; younger plants are shrublike; older plants more erect and treelike

Height 10-20' (25') Spread 2/3 to equal Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun

Soil tolerates most except wet poorly drained clay

Hardiness hardy (zones 2-24); thrives in warm areas

Morphology:

Leaves palmate, alternate, round-cordate, bright green, 2-3" diameter, on 3-6" petioles (similar to Cercis siliquastrum, but smaller)

Flowers brilliant pink, sweet-pea shaped; 1/2" diameter, in small axillary clusters along most of the branches; February-April

Fruit a pod, 3-4" long, brown, flat; not compressed between seeds

Propagation: seed

Usage: excellent small accent tree prized for interesting form, heavy flower display and round foliage; leaves turn yellow in fall; suitable for patio tree, slopes

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional soak (regular until established); becomes very drought-tolerant with age

Fertilizing little is needed

Pruning little required; can thin out and head high when young

Pests/Diseases relatively free; is resistant to oak root fungus

Special Conditions

Origin: Calif & Ariz Family: Fabaceae