Growing With You Since 1926

Northern Lites™ Redbud

Cercis canadensis 'WFHnoli'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Northern Lights Redbud, Eastern Redbud, Judas Tree

Description:

A spectacular and hardy spring bloomer, presenting brilliant hot pink flowers held tightly on bare branches in early spring; dark green summer foliage turns a warm yellow in fall; an excellent ornamental tree for specimen use in the landscape



Northern Lites Redbud flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Northern Lites Redbud has hot pink pea-like flowers with cherry red calyces along the branches from early to mid spring before the leaves. It has forest green deciduous foliage which emerges coppery-bronze in spring. The heart-shaped leaves turn an outstanding yellow in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Northern Lites Redbud is a multi-stemmed deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Northern Lites Redbud is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use



Northern Lites Redbud
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Northern Lites Redbud will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant will benefit from an application of bonemeal and/or mycorrhizal fertilizer at the time of planting. It is not particular as to 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. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.