

Leaves, Limbs, Needles and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

Back in the fall we were talking about color on the golf course and now we need to talk about some spring color. Put some zip in some of those old shrub beds around the course and along the tree lines and woods if you are fortunate enough to have them. This month's selection will add that first of spring color and have members asking what is that beautiful plant. It's the good old common Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*.

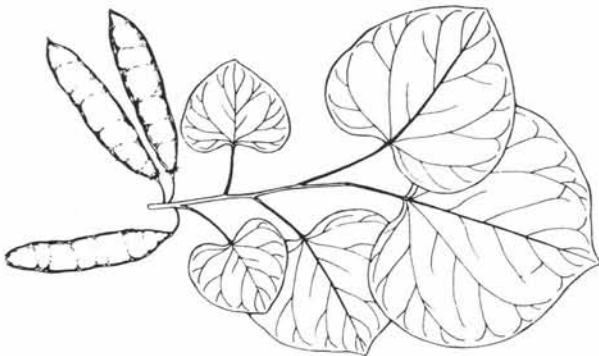
This is a small tree that may grow to 35 feet and may get to have a trunk of 1 foot in diameter. It's crown is usually broad and flattened. This is a tree you can plant under other trees for it will tolerate shade. It should be planted along and in the tree line for a better naturalizing effect. These ornamental trees can be purchased as single stem and multi-stem plants.

Bark: Reddish-brown, separating into long plates and thin scales.

Twigs: Slender, zigzag, smooth, angular, brown; leaf scars alternate, somewhat elevated, triangular, hairy across the top, with 3 bundle traces.



Leaves: Alternate, simple; blades heart-shaped, contracted to a short point at the tip, up to 6 inches long and nearly as broad, smooth on the upper surface, smooth or with some hairs on the lower surface, without teeth along the edges; leafstalks slender, up to 5 inches long, usually smooth.



Flowers: Legumes up to 4 inches long and 1/2 inch broad flat, smooth, brown at maturity, with several seeds.



Planting: This is a spring planted tree for our area and can be balled and burlapped. Likes rich moist soil, but will tolerate other soils.

Credit: Forest Trees of Illinois

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