



REDBUD

Redbud is known as the “harbinger of spring” and the delicate blossoms and buds are one of the season’s most dramatic displays. Unique and irregular branching patterns combine with a trunk that commonly divides close to the ground to create a very handsome, spreading and often flat-topped crown. The tree is considered both a flowering tree and an ornamental. It is typically planted for both its visual interest and profusion of spring flowers.

The Redbud has a local distinction of being the “Village Tree” since 2015.



GROWTH RATE

The tree grows at a medium rate, with height increase of 13-24-inches per year. At maturity, the height can be 20-30-feet with a spread of 25-35-feet.



SUN PREFERENCE

Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree; meaning it prefers a minimum of 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.



SOIL PREFERENCE

Grows in acidic, alkaline, loamy, moist, rich, sandy, well-drained and clay soils.



ATTRIBUTES

Blooms in a profusion of rosy pink flowers in April. Begins flowering at a young age; as early as 4 years. Leaves are somewhat heart-shaped 2-6-inches in length and they emerge with a reddish color, turning dark green as summer approaches and then yellow in the fall. Redbuds make a bold landscape statement. They grow in rounded and vase shape.



WILDLIFE VALUE

Early blossoms draw in nectar-seeking insects; including several species of early-season butterflies. Northern bobwhite and a few songbirds, such as chickadees, will eat the seeds. It can be used for nesting sites and nesting materials and it also provides shelter for birds and mammals.



HISTORY & LORE

Native to North America and Canada with cousins in Europe and Asia, this tree was noted by the Spaniards who made distinctions between the New World species and their cousins in the Mediterranean region in 1571. Centuries later, George Washington reported in his diary on many occasions about the beauty of the tree and spend many hours in his garden transplanting seedlings obtained from the nearby forest. **The Village of Richfield adopted the Redbud as the Village’s tree in 2015.**



AMERICAN SYCAMORE

The dense, green foliage of the perennial sycamore tree is perfect for adding shade or leafy lushness to a backyard or garden. They are one of the oldest species of trees and are known for their longevity and hardiness. Though there are several varieties of sycamore trees and they all share similar characteristics. The most striking feature of the tree is the bark has a camouflage pattern comprised of gray-brown outer bark that peels off in patches to reveal light gray or white wood.



GROWTH RATE

The highest growth period is from spring to late summer and can grow 6-feet per year. At maturity, trees can reach 70-feet with a 50-foot spread.



SUN PREFERENCE

Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree; meaning it prefers a minimum of 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.



SOIL PREFERENCE

Trees grow well along areas of deep river banks, lakes and streams and are not drought tolerant so this trees needs to be in an area that will always have water but well-drained.



ATTRIBUTES

Tree grows in a symmetrical shape so it can be used as a shade tree or an ornamental. Leaves are large with distinctive deep green color and this tree can be the densest tree in appearance. Their leaves turn yellow in the fall. Trees are highly resistant to pollution and salty soils and withstand high winds and hail. It is the largest deciduous tree in the Eastern U.S.



WILDLIFE VALUE

Small animals, such as squirrels, regularly make sycamore trees their home due to the warped and twisting branches.



HISTORY & LORE

There are 3 types of sycamore trees. The North America sycamore is the most common in the U.S. and Canada and is the largest of the species. The Middle Eastern sycamore can be found mostly in Eastern Africa and is smaller than the North American counterpart. The British sycamore is native to Europe and thrives in most conditions found in the central part of the European continent.



RIVER BIRCH

As its name suggests, the river birch naturally grows along river banks. But as a landscape tree, it can be planted almost anywhere in the U.S. The species is valued for its relatively rapid growth, tolerance of wetness and some drought, unique curling bark, spreading limbs and resistance to birch borer. The river birch has not yet reached the popularity of many maples and oaks, but it is well on its way.

The tree is considered both a shade tree and an ornamental tree. It features a spreading canopy capable of blocking sunlight and adds visual interest and beauty.



GROWTH RATE

This tree grows at a medium to fast rate, with height increases of anywhere from 13-inches to more than 24-inches per year. It can grow to a height of 40-70-feet with a spread of 40-60-feet at maturity.



SUN PREFERENCE

Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree; meaning it prefers a minimum of 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.



SOIL PREFERENCE

Grows well in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained, wet and clay soils. It will tolerate moderate flooding as well as some drought.



ATTRIBUTES

It features glossy green leaves that are 2-3-inches long and somewhat triangular. The margins are double-toothed and leaves are arranged alternately. The river birch produces brown and green catkins in April and May. A large number of tiny nutlets after female catkins mature are yielded in May and June. The cinnamon-colored bark curls and peels only once the tree is mature and it can be grown as either a single or multi-stemmed tree. It is the most borer-resistant birch and works well for holding stream banks and keeping erosion in check. The tree grows in an oval shape and should not be planted very alkaline soil.



WILDLIFE VALUE

The catkins of the River Birch are used by redpolls and pine siskins. The foliage is eaten by deer and other browsers and the small but plentiful seeds are appreciated by a wide range of songbirds.



HISTORY & LORE

River birch wood was once used for ox yokes, wooden shoes and other products around the farm. But they were rather disdained by loggers a knotty and spindly; often left to grow along the river bank to control erosion.



COMMON LILAC

Spectacular flowers in shades of lilac, light purple, white or lavender make this old-time lilac a garden favorite. The long-lasting flower clusters bloom in April or May and are framed with lush green foliage. Their nostalgic fragrance adds to the “coming of spring.” It is an extremely hardy shrub and can be used as specimen, in a border, in a container or above-ground planter, near a deck or patio, as a street tree, in a sidewalk cutout, in a parking lot island as a buffer strip or along a highway. The lilac is considered both a flowering shrub and an ornamental shrub. It is typically planted for both its visual interest and profusion of spring flowers.



GROWTH RATE

This shrub grows at a medium rate, with height increases of 13-24-inches per year. It will grow to a height of 15-20-feet with a spread of around 15-feet at maturity.



SUN PREFERENCE

Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree, meaning it prefers a minimum of 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.



SOIL PREFERENCE

This lilac adapts to a wide variety of soil textures; slightly alkaline to acidic. It will also tolerate moderate drought.



ATTRIBUTES

Produces small, creamy white flowers in 3-6-inch panicles that give off an aroma similar to honey or privet. Blooms in late spring or early summer and is the most pest-resistant lilac. It tolerates urban conditions. It features simple, ovate to ovate-lanceolate leaves that are dark green in color and 2-4-inches long. This lilac develop handsome reddish-brown bark, grows in an irregular shape that is upright, arching, loose and open. It needs a cold-weather dormancy period to flower and can be pruned into a single-stemmed tree.



WILDLIFE VALUE

Attracts butterflies, provide caterpillar food and offer cover for birds and butterflies.



HISTORY & LORE

It is a native of northern China and it also known as the Chinese Lilac. There are 24 species of lilacs, two come from Europe and the others from Asia. The oldest living lilacs in North America are believed to have been planted at the Governor Wentworth estate in Portsmouth, New Hampshire around 1750.



WHITE FLOWERING DOGWOOD

The Dogwood is an excellent landscape choice for all 4 seasons. White “flowers” show their beauty in spring, foliage turns a vibrant red-purple in fall and glossy red fruits attract winter songbirds. This is a great option to plant near utility lines, next to larger buildings or near patios. It offers a nice contrast when planted along with Pink or Red Dogwoods with larger evergreens in the background. This tree is considered both a flowering tree and an ornamental tree. It is typically planted for both because of its visual interest and profusion of spring flowers.



GROWTH RATE

This tree grows at a medium rate, with height increases of 13-24-inches per year reaching a height of 25-feet and 25-feet spread at maturity.



SUN PREFERENCE

Full sun and partial shade are best for this tree, meaning it prefers a minimum of 4 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.



SOIL PREFERENCE

The white dogwood is very versatile; growing in acidic, loamy, moist, rich, sandy, well-drained and clay soils. It prefers moist conditions.



ATTRIBUTES

This dogwood blooms April-May, with distinctive white bracts [modified leaves] surrounding a smaller insignificant flower. It produces glossy red fruit eaten by birds, provides great fall color, with leaves turning red-purple. It grows in a rounded shape and is a good choice for planting near utility lines, larger buildings or patios. Features dark green leaves that are 4-8-inches long and oval or ovate shape.



WILDLIFE VALUE

The seed, fruit, flowers, twigs, bark and leaves area all used as food by various animals. At least 36 species of birds; including ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail and wild turkey. Chipmunks, foxes, squirrels, skunks, rabbits, deer, beaver, black bear and other mammals eat the fruit. Foliage and twigs are browsed heavily by deer and rabbits.



HISTORY & LORE

This tree is native from Massachusetts to Florida and west to Texas and it was cultivated in 1731. It has been an American favorite for centuries and both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson plant it on their plantations. Early Native Americans made medicinal teas from its bark and desperate Civil War doctors used this tea as a quinine substitute. The wood is extremely hard and has been used for weaver’s shuttles, chisel and maul handles, golf club heads and yokes. It is the state tree for Missouri and Virginia.

BUTTERFLY BUSH TREE GUIDE

Drenching the air with a fruity scent, butterfly bush's flower spikes are an irresistible lure to butterflies and hummingbirds all summer long. The plants have an arching habit that's appealing especially as a background in informal flower borders. In warmer climates, butterfly bushes soon grow into trees and develop rugged trunks that peel.

To nurture butterfly bush through cold Northern winters, spread mulch up to 6 inches deep around the trunk. Plants will die down, but re-sprout in late spring. Prune to the ground to encourage new growth and a more fountainlike shape. Avoid fertilizing butterfly bush; extra-fertile soil fosters leafy growth rather than flower spikes. Remove spent flower spikes to encourage new shoots and flower buds.

Photo © Proven Winner



GROWTH RATE

This shrub grows at a fast rate, with height increases of more than 24-inches per year.



SUN PREFERENCE

Full sun is the ideal condition for this shrub, meaning that it should get at least 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.



SOIL PREFERENCE

Butterfly bushes grow in a wide range of soils, but the site must be well-drained. It is somewhat a drought-tolerant plant.



ATTRIBUTES

Produces small, star-like, aromatic flowers that are densely clustered in spikes. Bloom time extends from midsummer to fall. Leaves are dark green and lanceolate shaped. Tolerates heat and frost. Grows in a rounded shape. Does not require deadheading.



WILDLIFE VALUE

Attracts butterflies and humming birds. Deer are not attracted to it.



NORWAY SPRUCE

The Norway Spruce is a familiar sight in much of the United States, but it is really a tree of Europe. Throughout the world, this tree has many uses including lumber, pulpwood, Christmas trees and landscape specimen trees.

Its dense branching pattern and tolerance of soil variations has also made it a popular tree for windbreaks. Select this tree if you have enough space and want to add a sense of formal dignity to your landscape.



GROWTH RATE

This tree grows at a medium to fast rate, with height increases of anywhere from 13-inches to more than 24-inches per year. It can grow to a height of 40-60-feet with a spread of 25-30-feet at maturity.



SUN PREFERENCE

Full sun is the ideal condition; meaning it should get at least six hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.



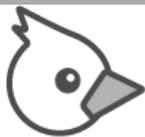
SOIL PREFERENCE

The Norway Spruce grows in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained and clay soils. It has some drought tolerance.



ATTRIBUTES

It is the fastest growing of the spruces and is very easy to transplant. It can be planted on a wide variety of sites and it works well for windbreaks. It features a dark green needle roughly 1.5-1-inch in length and feel square when rolled between your fingers. It naturally grows in a pyramidal shape and can begin to look a little unkempt in its old age.



WILDLIFE VALUE

The Norway Spruce support a wide variety of wildlife and they are important as winter cover for deer and small game; including grouse, hare and woodcock. Song birds and fur bearer also frequent these forest types and also makes a good roosting tree for hawks and owl.



HISTORY & LORE

The Norway Spruce hails from Europe and while this species does grow in Norway, the name is a bit of a misnomer. This tree grew in Eurasia, the Black Forest and other parts of the continent long before making its way to Norway around 500 B.C. As people emigrated, they often brought trees with them from the "Old Country" to plant as ornamentals on their new homesteads.