Midnight Express® Redbud

Cercis canadensis 'RNI-RCC3'



Midnight Express Redbud foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Eastern Redbud, Judas Tree, Love Tree

Description:

A spectacular and hardy spring bloomer, with very showy bright pink flowers on bare branches in early spring; velvety, deep burgundy, heart-shaped leaves; a top choice ornamental tree for specimen use in the landscape

Ornamental Features

Midnight Express Redbud features showy hot pink pea-like flowers along the branches from early to mid spring before the leaves. It has attractive burgundy-variegated forest green foliage which emerges plum purple in spring. The heart-shaped leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding red in the fall.



Midnight Express Redbud flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Midnight Express Redbud is a 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

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Midnight Express Redbud is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Midnight Express Redbud will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath 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.



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