Eastern Redbud
*Cercis canadensis*

Eastern redbud has an irregular growth habit when young but forms a graceful flat-topped vase-shape as it gets older. The tree usually branches low on the trunk and if left intact forms a graceful multi-trunked habit. Splendid purple-pink flowers appear all over the tree in spring just before the leaves emerge. Trees are short-lived but provide a wonderful show in the spring and fall. Yellow fall color and tolerance to partial shade make this a suitable, attractive tree for understory or specimen planting. Include in a shrub border for a spring and fall color display. Best growth occurs in a light, rich, moist soil but eastern redbud adapts well to a variety of soil including sandy or alkaline. Trees look better when they receive some irrigation in summer dry spells. Its native habitat ranges from stream bank to dry ridge demonstrating its adaptability.

**Type:** deciduous small tree

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4b through 9a

**Uses:** lawn tree; deck or patio; shade; specimen; reclamation

**Origin:** native to the eastern United States

**Height:** 20 to 30 feet  
**Spread:** 15 to 25 feet

**Light requirement:** full sun, part sun or part shade

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** none

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible

**Pest resistance:** low resistance to pests/diseases

Photo: UF/IFAS

Published July 2022: Larry Busbee, MGV, Frances Andrews, MGV, and Josh Criss, UF/IFAS Extension, Santa Rosa County Cooperative Extension, 6263 Dogwood Dr., Milton, FL 32570  850-623-3868