Cercis canadensis
Redbud

Mature Height (ft.)	**20 to 25**
Spread (ft.):	**15 to 20**
Growth Rate:	**Moderate to slow**
Exposure:	**Sun**
Flower:	**Deep purple blooms in clusters along stems in early spring before the leaves develop (very showy)**
Fruit:	**Long, flat pod, two to three inches long, persists into winter**
Color:	**Shiny dark green, yellow in fall**

Oklahoma's state tree, the redbud is prized for its striking physical characteristics and adaptable nature. The shiny, heart-shaped leaves are attractive on the low-branching stems and emerge after the spectacular blooms of spring have faded. It can be seen as a multi-trunk specimen, or as a single trunk tree, but may require some early pruning to establish strong branch structure. Redbuds make wonderful trees for urban areas, due to their moderate size, broad-spreading canopies, and low maintenance requirements. However, this tree needs consistent care during its establishment period of at least the first three years.

The 'Oklahoma' redbud is an extremely adaptable variety of the eastern redbud that is able to tolerate poorer soils, hot temperatures and drying winds, full sun to partial shade as well as moist conditions. 'Oklahoma' redbud (*C. canadensis* var. *texensis* 'Oklahoma') has deeper purple coloration of blooms than other varieties, more lustrous leaves, and better drought resistance. Because of the thick, leathery texture of the leaves, this form of redbud is more resistant to leaf rollers. Other cultivars of merit include the Texas whitebud (a hardy alternative to other white blooming trees) and the shade-loving 'Forest Pansy' redbud.

Unfortunately, the redbud tends to be relatively short-lived in the urban environment, but the years of contribution it makes to the landscape are well worth the investment. It is a hardy, widely adaptable native tree with a great tolerance of conditions across the country. Overall, this tree is well adapted to central Oklahoma, and is very useful for enhancing the landscape with early spring blooms and lovely fall color.