

紫荆属 - **Cercis** (*Caesalpinaceae*)



canadensis

Origin: North America. Large, often multi-stemmed shrub or small tree, deciduous with regular habit and spreading, roundish crown. Cordate leaves with pointed tips are bronze when they appear, quickly becoming a deep bright green, then yellow in autumn. In April, bunches of crimson and pink flowers appear on the bare branches, turning dark purple towards the end of flowering. Same growing requirements and use as *Cercis siliquastrum*.

canadensis "Forest Pansy"

Origin: United States. Variety of the above, but has different coloured leaves – a very deep red in springtime, paler in the hotter months.



Cercis



紫荆 - *chinensis* "Avondale"

Shrub or small deciduous tree, densely branched. Rounded leaves, shiny, leathery, up to 12 cm long, deep green, yellow in autumn. Flowers before the leaves in dark purple-pink bunches. Loves calcareous soil but also grows well in slightly acid soil. An ideal plant for small or medium sized gardens.

siliquastrum, Judas Tree

Origin: Asia Minor. Large deciduous shrub or small tree, typical to the Mediterranean region. Upright habit when the plant is young, later the branches spread out and it looks almost always round, often picturesque. Heart-shaped leaves, 8-10cm, glaucous green. Small lilac-pink flowers grouped on the previous years branches. Flowering begins in April on bare branches and ends with the appearance of the first leaves. Fruit follows the flowering, long pods which are green at first, brown when ripe and remain on the plant for many months. One of the best species for chalky dry soils. Also withstands extreme temperatures – hot, dry summers and cold winters. Use: excellent for small gardens, on its own on a lawn or with other shrubs, very good for avenues, even rather narrow ones.



Cercis



siliquastrum "Alba",
White Judas Tree

Identical to *Cercis siliquastrum*, but has white flowers.