

<< Redbud Row & Dogwood Grove >>



The Redbud Row and Dogwood Grove of understory trees showcase a stunning floral display mid-April into May, and has year-round interest.

Eastern Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*) (on left) are showy understory native trees that are versatile, easy to care for, and have wildlife habitat benefits. They are small deciduous trees, which grow 20 to 30 feet. Their leafless horizontal branches are smothered in small deep pink flowers in early spring before leaves appear. Blooms appear in April and are generally most abundant in mid-April. Their early nectar and pollen attracts a large number of specialized native bees and butterflies such as elfins. Pea-shaped seedpods follow the flower and provide food for a variety of birds. It has large, heart-shaped leaves during the summer, which become a quilt of yellow and green in the fall. Eastern Redbuds are especially nice in woodland and naturalized settings. They are easy to grow in full sun or part shade, and they adapt to many soils but prefers moist, well-drained sites.



Flowering Dogwoods (*Cornus florida*) (on right) are among the early spring-flowering native trees, and are regarded by many as unrivaled in beauty. They grow 15 to 25 feet in height (and may reach 30 to 40 feet in wooded areas). Flowering dogwoods have spreading horizontal branches and distinctive white flowers in spring. The 3" diameter flower clusters bloom mid-April to mid-May, attracting a number of butterflies and other pollinators. These deciduous native trees offer landscape interest for all seasons, beginning with a floral display in April, followed by deep, green foliage held on layered branches in the summer. With fall comes a brilliant show of scarlet to reddish purple foliage and bright red fruit (drupes) borne in small clusters. The fruit often lasts into December or until it is devoured by birds. The interesting bark texture and branches help create an excellent winter silhouette. Dogwoods prefer partial sun and nutrient-rich, well-drained soil. Because they grow in nature as understory trees, they prefer afternoon shade to shield them from blazing sunlight.



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