

# Planting Your Redbud in 6 Steps

*Adapted from Arbor Day Foundation "How to Plant Bare-root Trees"*

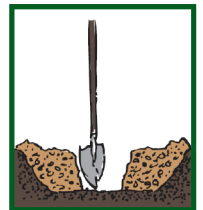
1

**Unpack your trees**, remove all packing materials, carefully untangle the roots and soak the roots in water 3 to 6 hours. Do not allow the roots to dry out.



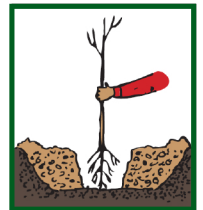
2

**Dig a hole**, wider than seems necessary, so the roots can grow outward without crowding. Remove any grass within a 3-foot circular area. To aid root growth, turn soil in an area up to 3 feet in diameter.



3

**Plant the tree** with plenty of room for the roots. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. Do not add soil amendments such as peat or bark.



4

**Shovel in the remaining soil.** It should be firmly but not tightly packed. Give the tree plenty of water. Do not use fertilizer, potting soil, or chemicals when planting.



5

After the water has soaked in, **spread mulch** two inches deep in a 3-foot diameter area around the base of the tree, but not touching the trunk. Make a mulch "donut," not a volcano.



6

The soil and mulch around your trees should be kept moist but not soggy. During dry weather, **generously water the tree** every 7 to 10 days during the first year. Water slowly at the dripline.



Watch a helpful  
**Planting Video**



Tag your new tree  
**#ArborDayRVA**

This tree giveaway has been coordinated by the Richmond Tree Committee in partnership with Dominion Energy, Richmond Public Schools, Richmond Public Libraries, Virginia Department of Forestry, VCU Office of Sustainability, Richmond Community ToolBank, Southside Releaf, Gallery5, Enrichmond TreeLab, and the City of Richmond Urban Forestry division, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, RVAH20, and Office of Sustainability.

# Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

*A few things to know about about your new tree friend:*

**Benefits:** Redbuds have heart-shaped leaves and put out pink flowers in the spring. They are native to the Richmond region and a fantastic source of food and habitat for local birds and pollinating insects.

**Watering:** Keeping your baby trees watered is important during their first year. One heavy watering every week is ideal. Keep the soil and mulch moist but not soggy. The water should soak into the soil and mulch, but avoid watering so much that you see standing water.

The bright pink flowers that cover the twigs in spring are edible and somewhat tangy. Great for salads.

**Mature Height:** 20 - 30'

**Mature Spread:** 25 - 35'

**Bloom Time:** April

**Fall Color:** Yellow



**10 years**

**40 years**

**Location:** Redbuds love both shady and sunny spots. They live happily under the shade of larger overstory trees or in full sun. Redbuds top out at 25' tall and are low maintenance and can be planted individually or in little groups.



**Map your new Redbud**

**Reforest Richmond** is a collaborative campaign to increase Richmond's urban tree canopy to 60% by 2037. We are committed, not only to increasing citywide tree canopy, but also to dismantling systemic racism and environmental injustice through an evolving, equity-centered, community-driven effort. Racist and anti-black policies have contributed to significant gaps in Richmond's urban tree canopy, particularly in communities of color, and is linked to hotter average temperatures known as Urban Heat Island effect. Rebuilding canopy is impossible without rebuilding trust. More information is available at [reforestrichmond.org](https://reforestrichmond.org).



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