

Catalogue of the National Plant Collection of:  
*Cercis canadensis*, *C. canadensis*  
*var. texensis*, *C. chinensis* & *C.*  
*siliquastrum* cultivars.

Including additional plants from Hugh Povey's collection.



Hugh Povey with *Cercis canadensis* ETERNAL FLAME ('Nc2016-2') winner of the 'Plant of the Year' 2021 at RHS Chelsea.

Hugh Povey, holder of the National Collection of *Cercis* in Cumbria, has developed an outstanding specialist collection celebrating the beauty and diversity of this genus, set within a small arboretum. The beautiful *Cercis canadensis* subsp. *texensis* 'Oklahoma' for our garden was recommended by Hugh and sourced from Collendoorn.

***Cercis canadensis* 'Ace of Hearts'<sup>PBR</sup>**

Found in the USA by Paul Woody in 2005, this was the first *Cercis* discovered with a naturally compact habit and leaves much smaller than the regular *canadensis*. Used as a parent plant in producing the Garden Gems™ series. Pink flowers precede the emergence of the heart shaped green leaves.

***Cercis canadensis* Ace of Spades ('JN16'<sup>PBR</sup>)**

Bred by Ray & Cindy Jackson (Tennessee) and patented in 2017 as Black Pearl® in the USA. Due to trademark conflicts it is named Ace of Spades in Europe and the PBR application is currently underway. Medium size with very dark foliage and a smattering of pink flowers preceding the emergence of the foliage.

***Cercis canadensis* 'Alley Cat'**

Alley Cat was found by Alan Bush in an alley near his home in Kentucky, USA and was introduced in 2016. It is a vigorous green foliage variety with splashes of white chimeras and pink flowers before leafing out. Patented in the USA but no PBR in Europe. The most vigorous variegated *Cercis* available and probably the best for UK conditions.

***Cercis canadensis* 'Appalachian Red'**

Was found by Dr Max Brykit in Maryland and introduced in the USA in 1990. Vigorous growth with green foliage and the flowers which precede the foliage are probably the closest to red of any *Cercis* cultivar, but does not give the flowering display in the UK for which it is known in the USA. Can become a large and leggy tree.

***Cercis canadensis* Carolina Sweetheart ('NCCC1'<sup>PBR</sup>)**

Bred by Dr Tom Ranney (NCSU) using the known cultivars of Forest Pansy and Silver Cloud as F1 parents. Carolina Sweetheart was a seedling selected in the F2 generation. Pink/white and green variegated foliage can produce a very dramatic effect, however in extreme heat/sunlight it suffers from scorch and in cooler regions it lacks the vigour to grow well. We keep it in a container where it grows better. It has been described as "among the most colourful and pretty variegated trees globally."

***Cercis canadensis* 'Cascading Hearts'**

A green leaved, weeping cultivar discovered in 1997 by Steven Bennett. Was found to have denser foliage and branching than Lavender Twist. Flowers are a little paler pink in colour. Has a USA patent, but no PBR.

***Cercis canadensis* 'Eliana'**

A pendulous form of Eternal Flame. Not yet available commercially but possibly in 2028. We named it after our granddaughter who was born at a similar time to when it was discovered, but will probably have a commercial name if introduced.

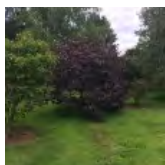
***Cercis canadensis* Eternal Flame™ ('NC2016-2'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



Bred by Dr Dennis Werner (NCSU) and introduced in 2020 as Flame Thrower™ in the USA and Eternal Flame™ in Europe. The new foliage emerges rich red which gradually turns to orange and then green, giving the plant a very distinct appearance throughout the spring to autumn. A smattering of pink flowers may precede the foliage. Was chosen as Chelsea Plant of the Year in 2021 and is indeed a spectacular tree even if lacking in vigour in the north and requiring a little pruning to make a good shape.

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***Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' AGM**



This cultivar was discovered on a nursery in Tennessee, USA in 1947 but not patented and introduced commercially until 1965. It remains probably the most widely grown cultivar of *Cercis* in the USA & Europe and remains very popular due to its rich red/purple coloured leaves and great autumn colours. A light smattering of pink flowers precede the foliage. Can be brittle in windy locations. Don't believe those who try to sell by exaggerating the flowering potential. It is only ever light in the UK.

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***Cercis canadensis* Garden Gems™ Amethyst ('NC2017-6'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



A very beautiful compact, red/purple foliage *Cercis* bred by Dr Dennis Werner (North Carolina State University). This cultivar has US Patent and PBR applied for. Recently introduced, this cultivar is great for containers, gardens and standards. Few flowers, but a great small tree. We would highly recommend this plant for a small garden or patio container.

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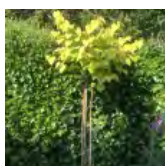
***Cercis canadensis* Garden Gems™ Amethyst Falls ('NC2017-8'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



A new cultivar bred by Dr Dennis Werner (North Carolina State University) and not yet introduced commercially into Europe. Small purple foliage and a weeping habit make it a plant suitable for small gardens and containers. A few pink flowers may precede the foliage in spring. US Patent and EU PBR will be applied for.

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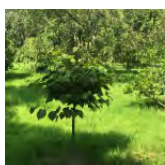
***Cercis canadensis* Garden Gems™ Citrine ('NC2017-92'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



A new introduction from the breeding of Dr Dennis Werner (NCSU). Compact yellow leaves. Suitable as a standard (top grafted), containers or for small gardens. US Patent and EU PBR applied for. Lacks vigour in the UK but nice once established.

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***Cercis canadensis* Garden Gems™ Emerald ('NC2014-5'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



A new semi-glossy, small, green leaved *Cercis* with many light pink flowers preceding the foliage. Bred by Dr Dennis Werner (NCSU). US Patent and EU PBR applied for. Can be used as a compact garden plant, standard or patio item. A much nicer plant than Ace of Hearts.

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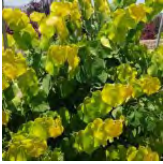
***Cercis canadensis* Garden Gems™ Emerald Falls ('NC2017-9'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



A recently introduced cultivar bred by Dr Dennis Werner (NCSU). Small green foliage with a tinge of red and a compact weeping habit with pink flowers preceding the foliage. US Patent and EU PBR applied for.

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***Cercis canadensis* Gilded Hearts® ('NC2014-10')**



This new plant was bred by Dr Dennis Werner (NCSU) and will probably not be introduced into Europe. It is primarily suited to very hot and sunny climates where it resists scorch and the foliage is of a glossy, yellow appearance. It also has a considerable quantity of pink flowers which precede the foliage. Actually grows and flowers well in the collection, but the leaves remain green. US Patent.

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***Cercis canadensis* Golden Falls ('NC2015-12'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



Bred by Dr Denny Werner (NCSU) and introduced in 2020. A strongly pendulous, yellow leaved cultivar with a few pink flowers preceding the foliage. The F2 result of a Hearts of Gold x Lavender Twist hybrid cross. The leaves are greener when the weather is cloudy and cooler.

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***Cercis canadensis* Hearts A'Fire™ ('DN100'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



Bred by Ray & Cindy Jackson (Tennessee) and only just being commercially released into Europe. The new foliage is a rich, red colour, gradually turning to green. Similar to Eternal Flame but has less yellow in the foliage and maybe a few more pink flowers preceding the foliage. US Patent and PBR applied for.

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***Cercis canadensis* 'Hearts of Gold'<sup>PBR</sup>**



A chance discovery on the side of a woodland by Jon Roethling (Greensboro, USA). Patented and introduced in 2007 and a few years later in Europe where it has PBR. In strong light the foliage turns radiant yellow, but greener where light intensity is lower. Some pink flowers precede the foliage.

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***Cercis canadensis* Lavender Twist ('Covey')**



Discovered by Mrs Covey and first propagated and patented by Tim Brotzman, an Ohio nurseryman. This was the first pendulous *Cercis* having no apical dominance and without training up could grow horizontal. Green foliage and dark pink flowers made it the standard green foliage weeping *Cercis* for many years. Very hardy.

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***Cercis canadensis* 'Little Woody'**



Found, named and introduced by Paul Woody (USA). The foliage is a dark green mottled appearance - almost looking virused. Dark pink flowers precede the foliage. A strange looking plant which has never caught on. Has a US Patent but the PBR was withdrawn due to lack of sales.

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***Cercis canadensis* 'Merlot'**



A fine cultivar bred by Dr Denny Werner (NCSU). Red/purple glossy foliage turns towards green in summer and can have good autumn colour. Vigorous growing and very heat tolerant make it a favorite for the southern USA but also does well in the collection here in Cumbria. Good flowering potential in hotter regions, but foliage colour is better where nights are cooler.

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***Cercis canadensis* 'Midnight Express'<sup>®</sup>PBR**



A new cultivar bred by Chris Robinson (Oregon) and patented in the USA in 2022. It is very vigorous and could make nice street trees and larger specimens. Dark purple foliage and some pink flowers preceding the foliage. May not be introduced into Europe by the agent Proven Winners, but if it is then PBR will apply.

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***Cercis canadensis* 'NC2017-113'<sup>PBR</sup>**



A new and as yet un-named compact white flowered cultivar with small, glossy green foliage. US Patent and EU PBR applied for.

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***Cercis canadensis* 'NC2017-35'**



A new, as yet un-named small red foliage cultivar with great autumn colour. May not be introduced either in the USA or EU due to its similarity to Amethyst.

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***Cercis canadensis* 'NC2019-4'<sup>PBR</sup>**



A new and as yet un-named *Cercis* with small glossy green foliage and a pendulous form. May be introduced in 2028. Looks to be a very nice compact *Cercis*.

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***Cercis canadensis* Oklahoma Sparkler ('JN21')**



A new cultivar from the Ray & Cindy Jackson breeding program. Glossy red/green foliage and dark pink flowers. A nice shaped and attractive strong growing *Cercis*. Has US Patent but may not be introduced into Europe.

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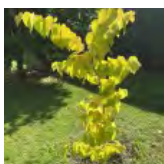
***Cercis canadensis* Pink Pom Poms ('NC2008-1')**



A double pink flowering cultivar with green foliage. It was grown from a unique supposed cross of Flame x Oklahoma at a nursery, which theoretically should be impossible as Flame is sterile. Seed collected by Hidden Hollow Nursery in Tennessee and patented in 2017 in collaboration with Denny Werner. Grows well in our collection with some pink flowers preceding the glossy green foliage.

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***Cercis canadensis* Rise and Shine™ ('JN15'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



A new cultivar and as yet unavailable commercially in Europe. Selected by Ray & Cindy Jackson in Tennessee. Strong yellow foliage seem to make it the most yellow foliage *Cercis* variety in the region where we are located. A few pink flowers, but it is the yellow foliage that makes it attractive. Time will tell how winter hardy and reliable it is. Will have US Patent and EU PBR.

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### ***Cercis canadensis* 'Royal White'**



A strong growing white flowered cultivar first discovered probably around 1950 or earlier. Became the widely grown standard white flowered *Cercis* in the USA. Dull, green foliage.

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### ***Cercis canadensis* 'Ruby Falls'<sup>PBR</sup> AGM**



Bred by Dr Denny Werner (NCSU) and introduced to huge publicity as the first red foliage, weeping *Cercis* in 2011. US Patent, EU PBR. A nice plant.

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### ***Cercis canadensis* subsp. *texensis* 'Oklahoma'**



A seedling of unknown parentage dating back to 1965. Glossy green foliage with prolific dark pink flowers when grown in a hot climate. Likes the heat of the southern USA and so does not perform so well in the north of the UK. Popular in southern USA, but not grown widely outside its favoured region.

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### ***Cercis canadensis* subsp. *texensis* 'Texas White'**



Texas White was introduced around 1960. It has white flowers and very attractive glossy green foliage. However it does seem hard to make a good shaped tree or bush out of this plant. It is also slow to grow in colder climates preferring its southern USA roots. In the USA some call it Oklahoma whitebud.

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### ***Cercis canadensis* subsp. *texensis* 'Traveller'**



An attractive glossy green foliage weeping *Cercis* discovered at Madrone Nursery, Texas and patented in 1994. The species was once known as *reniformis*, but now like the others with this species name it is now determined to be a sub-species of *canadensis* called *texensis*.

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### ***Cercis canadensis* 'Tennessee Pink'**



A green leaved variety which gives a fluorescent pink flower display. The cultivar can easily be distinguished by its distinctive flowers. First introduced around 2002.

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### ***Cercis canadensis* The Rising Sun ('JN2')**



A unique find by Ray & Cindy Jackson in a line of *Cercis* seedlings gave rise to this cultivar. The new foliage is often orange, turning yellow and then green. Sometimes a mottled foliage appearance in spring, but when it looks good it is very nice, especially in early autumn. Pink flowers precede the foliage.

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### ***Cercis canadensis* 'Vanilla Twist'<sup>PBR</sup>**



The result of a protracted breeding program by Tim Brotzman resulting in this fine, white flowered, green leaved and strongly weeping form of *Cercis*. Derived from crossing Covey x Royal White and patented in 2021 with EU PBR following.

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***Cercis canadensis* White Pom Poms® ('NC2017-108'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



A new introduction from the breeding of Dr Denny Werner. A complicated cross with Dwarf White and Flame as its parents have given rise to a double white flowering form with excellent hardiness and semi-shiny green foliage. Vigourous to grow and a nice tree form. Is becoming available in the UK where it has PBR.

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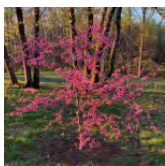
***Cercis canadensis* 'Whitewater'**



A pendulous, variegated cultivar bred by Dr Dennis Werner (NCSU) and introduced in 2013. Lacks vigor but if grown in a container or sheltered location can be very attractive. Hard to find in Europe.

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***Cercis canadensis* ZigZag™ ('Seirb'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



A natural mutation found in Virginia, USA and recently introduced, patented and EU PBR. The strange angles of the branches give rise to the name which describe it perfectly. Pink flowers precede green leaves. This plant has year round interest and will always give cause for questions by those who see it for the first time.

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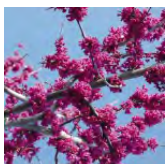
***Cercis chinensis* 'Avondale' AGM**



This very popular *Cercis* was discovered in New Zealand around 1993 and introduced by Duncan & Davis who were widely respected international nurserymen. It has prolific pink flowering in the spring followed by thick glossy green foliage and grows to make a fine bush of maybe 2.5-3m (8-10ft) in the right conditions.

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***Cercis chinensis* 'Diane'**



A new more vigorous *chinensis* cultivar selected and named by the plantsman Chris Lane. It seems to flower earlier than Avondale and have a little more vigour with a nice shape and foliage colour. Recommended.

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***Cercis chinensis* 'Don Egolf' AGM**



Named after the great plantsman and plant breeder Dr Donald Egolf this *Cercis chinensis* was selected as a seedling from seeds imported to the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington DC. Introduced in 2000 it is seedless and very floriferous in the right conditions. Green leaves and slow growth.

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***Cercis chinensis* f. *alba***



A white flowered *chinensis*. We would suggest that the cultivar Shirobana is a superior plant.

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***Cercis chinensis* 'Kay's Early Hope'**



Probably the earliest and longest flowering of any *chinensis*. Named in memory of Kay Yow the local North Carolina State basketball coach who died of cancer. In a sunny, warm location it can be so full of flower that the branches disappear. May be difficult to find in the UK.

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### ***Cercis chinensis* 'Shibamichi Red'**



A rare cultivar outside of Japan. Probably originated and selected in China for its dark red flowers and red stems, however it is very late to break dormancy in our location and does not seem to flower or look anything special.

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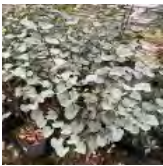
### ***Cercis chinensis* 'Shirobana'**



Becoming quite common as the standard white flowering *Cercis* in the UK, this cultivar first came from Japan and was exported to the USA to Gardens Delight Nursery probably during the 1990s. Wood from here was used to propagate and start introductions into Europe 20 years ago and this plant which makes a very fine small tree is now widely used in cultivation. Rich green foliage and prolific white flowering.

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### ***Cercis griffithii* Blue Lagoon ('Rafmar 1'<sup>PBR</sup>)**



This species originates from the region of Tajikistan/Afghanistan and is found on hillsides and rocky outcrops. This selection was made by a Belgian plant collector from a group of *griffithii* seeds and seems to have a slightly more blue colour to the foliage. *Cercis griffithii* likes very hot summers, but could struggle in UK winters. Wet and cold combined is not to its liking. Blue-ish coloured foliage and some dark pink flowers. A recent introduction.

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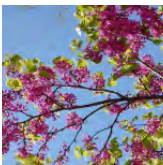
### ***Cercis racemosa***



A species from China which has long threads of pink flowers and green foliage. Unfortunately we have never seen flowers even though it grows well in our location.

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### ***Cercis siliquastrum***



This species is of Mediterranean origin and widely used in Southern Europe and indeed around the Mediterranean and Middle East. Known as the Judas Tree as it is thought Judas Iscariot hung himself on such a tree after betraying Jesus. Pink flowers and greyish leaves. Makes a nice tree.

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### ***Cercis siliquastrum* 'Bodnant' AGM**



A specific tree was planted into Bodnant Gardens in 1876 and then named Bodnant (after the gardens) in 1944 due to its prolific flowering display. It is probably the best flowering *Cercis* for the north of the UK and very reliable and hardy. An excellent choice.

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### ***Cercis siliquastrum* 'White Swan'**



Discovered in a garden in Woodbridge by Paul Masters. White flowers with usual *siliquastrum* greyish leaves. Makes a nice tree.

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