



Honaker Redbud Festival, Inc.

P.O. Box 1523 Honaker, Virginia 24260

Transplanting & Care Of The Eastern Redbud

Prepared By:

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December, 1985**

THE EASTERN REDBUD
(CERCIS CANADENSIS)

The Eastern Redbud, often referred to as the Judas-Tree, is a rather small tree that is extensively favored for ornamental purposes. Its useful life expectancy is about 50 years and, therefore, is considered a short-lived tree. It usually branches about 10 to 15 feet from the ground and forms a spreading, flattened, or rounded head. Masses of attractive small light-pink to purple flowers appear in early spring.

The Redbud grows fairly rapidly, is rather free of pests, and is propagated from seed or young transplants. Although moderately hardy, it prefers rich and fairly moist sandy loam soils. It may be transplanted from field to lawn, and the following are some guidelines for transplanting the Redbud.

WHAT TO TRANSPLANT

Successful transplanting can depend entirely on the individual plant you select to move. Do not select a tree that is too large. The larger the tree, the more difficult it will be to move and the more problems encountered. Select a tree that can be dug and the roots balled in burlap. Smaller trees may not need to be balled. (see digging instructions)

WHEN TO TRANSPLANT

The best time for transplanting Redbuds in Southwest Virginia is when they are still dormant in early spring (late February or early March). Transplanting should be done before the buds begin to grow and while the ground is workable and not frozen.

WHERE TO TRANSPLANT

Select the planting site carefully. Consider not only where the plant will look good, but also where it will grow best. Make sure the plant can adapt to the new site. Avoid common mistakes such as placing the tree too close to buildings, walls, etc. Allow room for future spreading of top and roots.

HOW TO TRANSPLANT

When digging up a deciduous tree, hold injury to the root to a minimum. Whether the tree is to be balled or not, minimizing bruises and cut to the roots will increase the odds of the tree living.

The following diagrams will show the digging up and planting process.

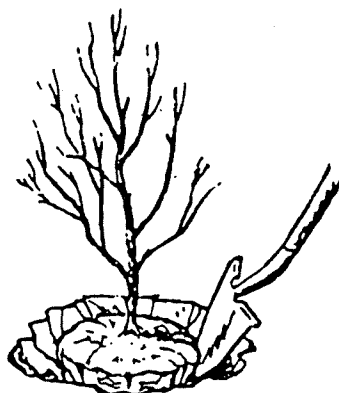
Remember that the roots should not be allowed to dry out at any time.

digging up

1 Before you start to dig, go out 1 foot for each inch of trunk diameter.



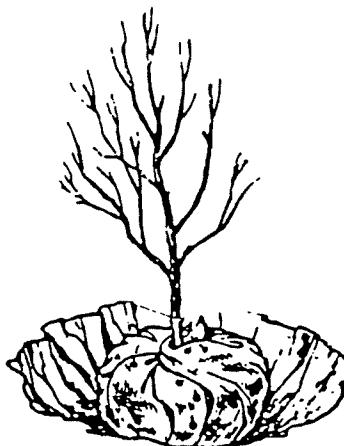
2 Dig with the back of the spade toward the plant to avoid prying up uncut roots. After the rootball is cut, trim and shape the ball, and undercut the roots.



3 Tip the ball and tuck a roll of burlap under it. Tip the ball in the opposite direction; unroll and pull the burlap under the ball.



4 Pin the burlap together with nails. If the soil is especially dry and crumbling, further secure the burlap with a nylon cord or small rope. Do not lift the plant by its trunk or branches. Lift small plants by the rootball and larger ones by prying up with 2 spades.

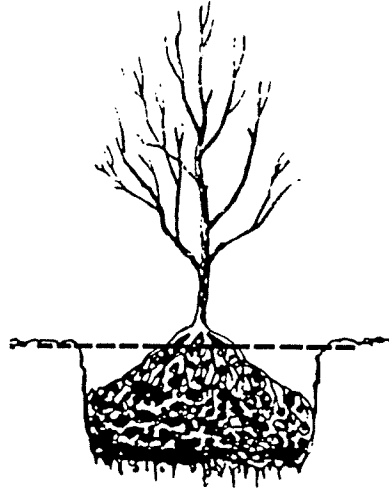


planting

1 Dig the hole a foot deeper than the height of the roots, and twice as wide as the root span, or the rootball. Loosen several inches of soil at the bottom of the hole to facilitate drainage.



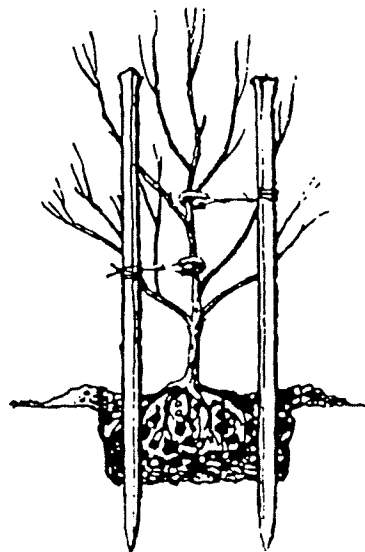
2 Add soil to the hole and build it up in a mound beneath the plant, so that the plant sits at a slightly higher level than before it was moved.



3 Fill three-fourths of the hole with soil, then water.



4 Fill the remaining part of the hole with soil, then for small plants drive in stakes to secure them. For securing large plants, use guy wires.



PLANTING

Before planting the tree, make sure the hole is wide enough and deep enough. For barerooted plants, allow sufficient room to accommodate the roots in their natural position. For balled plants, dig the hole twice the width of the root ball. The plant should be set slightly higher than its original level. After placing the tree in the hole, fill in with soil around the roots or ball until the hole is about three-fourths full. Then pour in some water. The water helps to bring the soil particles in direct contact with the roots.

When filling in around the tree use the same type soil as that which the tree will be growing in. It isn't necessary to add peat moss or other materials.

WATERING

Be careful not to overwater your tree; but newly transplanted trees will need watering during dry periods during the spring, summer, and fall of the first year after transplanting.

Do not water plants every day. Allow the soil to dry at the surface before you water again. A good rule of thumb would be to water about once a week unless there is plenty of rain.

WIND DAMAGE

Young trees planted in open areas may be damaged by the wind. It may be necessary to use guy wires to hold the tree in place until the root system becomes established.

You will probably want to use a piece of rubber hose around the guy wire to prevent it from cutting the bark.

FERTILIZING

If the Redbud is planted in good soil, you will not need to fertilize the tree until it has become established, probably the second year. At this point, you may want to use the following formula for fertilizing: 1/2 pound of 5-10-5 fertilizer per inch diameter of the trunk.

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