

Cross Pollination



Replacing Damaged Trees

by Claudette Sims

The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the second best time is now. No garden is complete without several striking tree specimens, and spring is a great time to be looking for and planting a new tree. Whether you have a new garden or an old one, trees can give the needed structure to make an OK garden, superb. Trees should be among your first plantings in your new garden. Once trees are in place, then you can add shrubs and perennials and annuals. Here are some of my favourite trees:

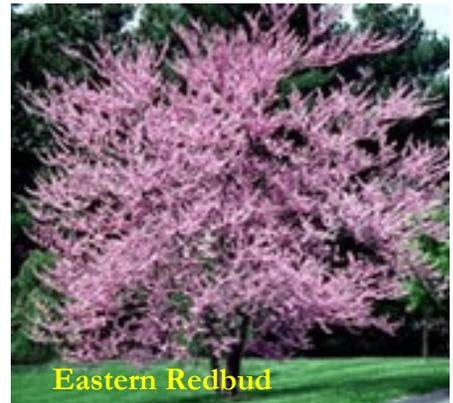
The Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is a native tree that has clusters of stunning magenta flowers in spring, blooming directly on the stems of the tree, before the leaves emerge. This is followed by beautiful heart shaped leaves which turn a golden colour in the fall. This small tree typically grows 6 to 9 meters with an 8 to 10 meter spread. 'Forest Pansy' is a purple-leaved cultivar of the native redbud tree. This tree is gorgeous planted as a specimen or in groups. It is an easy tree to grow and prefers sunny situations with well drained soil.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)

is another native tree that has multi season interest. In the spring, the tree is covered in delicate white flowers, followed by small black fruit in summer that is appealing to birds. A display of red and orange leaves follows in fall. Multi-stemmed specimens of this tree can be quite stunning. The fact that it is salt and juglone tolerant, makes it a versatile tree for city plantings. It varies from a large shrub to a small tree form ranging from 2 to 12 m in height. It tolerates normal moist, but well drained soil. It does best in sun full, but can tolerate partial shade.

Red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) is a small member of the chestnut family that rarely exceeds 6 m. In the spring, it has stunning large, red flowers that are very attractive to hummingbirds. The flowers are followed by a pear-shaped fruit, 'buckeyes'. This tree's ability to grow in shade makes it suitable for gardens that lack full sun. It is tolerant of a wide range of soil, but does not thrive in dry or exposed sites.

Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) has a distinctive horizontal tiered branching habit. The creamy white flowers form above each branch layer, further emphasizing its shape. Small purplish black fruit forms in mid-summer, attracting songbirds to its branches. There is a variegated form called "Golden Shadows" that has striking yellow-golden variegated leaves. It will grow up to 6 m in height and prefers a moist, well drained acid soil in a partially shaded location.



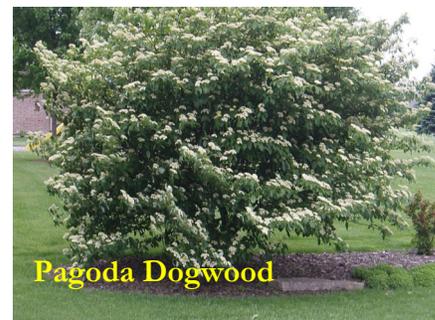
Eastern Redbud



Serviceberry



Red buckeye



Pagoda Dogwood

Cross Pollination

Newsletter of the Halton
Master Gardeners

Website:

<http://haltonmastergardeners.wordpress.com>

May TO DO List

- ◇ Mow lawn once grass height exceeds desired length (3" or 7 cm)
- ◇ Plant new woody and herbaceous perennials
- ◇ Harden off seedlings prior to setting out
- ◇ Dead head bulbs as flowers fade unless collecting seed
- ◇ Begin weeding lawn and gardens
- ◇ Mulch while the soil is moist
- ◇ Plant summer bulbs
- ◇ Put out humming bird feeders
- ◇ Direct seed summer annuals, perennials
- ◇ Postpone planting annuals until there is no more threat of frost

Master Gardeners of Halton

Where to find us this month for free gardening advice!



Email Help Line: haltonmastergardeners@gmail.com

Halton Master Gardeners Speakers List

Join us for our monthly speakers held at the Royal Botanical Gardens at 7:15 p.m.

Contact: Patty King at a_p@cogeco.ca Please note a \$5.00 fee covers speakers and refreshments.

May 7, 2014 Topic: Native terrestrial orchids of Ontario

Jenna McGuire, Naturalist at Bruce Peninsula National Park/Fathom Five National Marine park shares information on collection and conservation of wild orchids

June 4, 2014 Business Meeting: No speaker

Tip of the Month

Ten Tips to Successful Planting

1. When transplanting seedlings, never pick it up by the stem, it's the plant's lifeline
2. Don't rush hardening off, let plants get used to the elements and sun slowly and protect them at night by bringing them in... this could take from 1 to 2 weeks depending on the weather
3. Plant when it's overcast, and there is no threat of frost or heat wave. Water before planting
4. Plant seedlings one by one... don't pull them out of the pots until you have a hole in ground to place them
5. Wilted leaves or drooping stems may indicate transplant shock. Make sure there are no air holes by pressing the ground firmly around the plant, and protect from the wind with cloches
6. Don't plant every seed in the package. Not all of them will germinate and if you leave a few you can fill in those empty holes
7. Plant seeds according to package direction, some need light, others need to be buried more deeply
8. Most seeds are planted in rows, but another way to plant seeds is in hills. Which means planting them in a cluster – not in a mound, as you might expect
9. Only water when the soil is dry
10. Try something new every year

