**INTRODUCTION**

A hybrid of *Malus baccata* and *Malus sieboldii*, Redbud Crabapple grows at a moderate rate to 25 feet tall and 15 feet wide (can grow 30 feet wide), creating a dense, pyramidal form with weeping branch tips (Fig. 1). True to its name, the blossoms of Redbud Crabapple start out as red buds in spring which open to soft pink flowers, eventually fading to white. These blooms are delightfully fragrant and open in spring before the new leaves appear. The small, shiny, bright orange/red fruits which follow, persist on the tree well into the winter, if not first eaten by birds.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- **Scientific name:** *Malus x zumi* ‘Calocarpa’
- **Pronunciation:** MAY-lus x ZOO-mee
- **Common name(s):** Redbud Crabapple, ‘Calocarpa’
- **Zumi Crabapple**
- **Family:** Rosaceae
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 8A (Fig. 2)
- **Origin:** not native to North America
- **Uses:** container or above-ground planter; espalier; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized parking lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; near a deck or patio; trainable as a standard; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance
- **Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

**DESCRIPTION**

- **Height:** 20 to 25 feet
- **Spread:** 15 to 30 feet
- **Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette
- **Crown shape:** spreading

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1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-403, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1994.

2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.
Crown density: dense  
Growth rate: medium  
Texture: medium  

Foliage  
Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)  
Leaf type: simple  
Leaf margin: crenate; serrate; serrulate  
Leaf shape: elliptic (oval)  
Leaf venation: banchidodrome; pinnate  
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous  
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches  
Leaf color: green  
Fall color: yellow  
Fall characteristic: not showy  

Flower  
Flower color: pink; white  
Flower characteristics: spring flowering; very showy  

Fruit  
Fruit shape: round  
Fruit length: < .5 inch  
Fruit covering: fleshy  
Fruit color: orange; red  
Fruit characteristics: attracts birds; no significant litter problem; persistent on the tree; showy  

Trunk and Branches  
Trunk/bark/branches: droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; not particularly showy; tree wants to grow with several trunks but can be trained to grow with a single trunk; no thorns  
Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure  
Breakage: resistant  
Current year twig color: brown  
Current year twig thickness: medium; thin
Figure 3. Foliage of Redbud Crabapple.

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** tree grows in full sun  
**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate  
**Aerosol salt tolerance:** low  
**Soil salt tolerance:** moderate

**Other**

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem  
**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers  
**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more  
**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time  
**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible  
**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

**USE AND MANAGEMENT**

This has been described as one of the best Crabapples for street tree planting. When specifying trees for street or parking lot planting, be sure to order single trunked trees with major branches located as high on the trunk as possible. This will reduce the need to prune off lower limbs to provide clearance for vehicles and pedestrians. However, branches will still need to be removed as the tree grows older due to the slightly drooping habit of the tree. Suckers from the root system may also need to be occasionally removed. Trees planted away from walks and streets can be pruned and trained any way you like. They often look nice with branches left to the ground, forming a solid, thick, mounding shape with age.

Redbud Crabapple should be grown in full sun on well-drained, acid soil. They are adapted to a variety of soils, including clays. It is recommended that you purchase trees propagated on their own roots.

**Pests**

No pests are of major concern. Aphids can usually be found infesting a variety of Crabapples, including this one. Control of pests is usually not needed.

**Diseases**

Although resistant to scab, Redbud Crabapple is susceptible to fireblight and mildew.