



Malus x zumi 'Calocarpa' Redbud Crabapple¹

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INTRODUCTION

A hybrid of *Malus baccata* and *Malus seiboldii*, 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

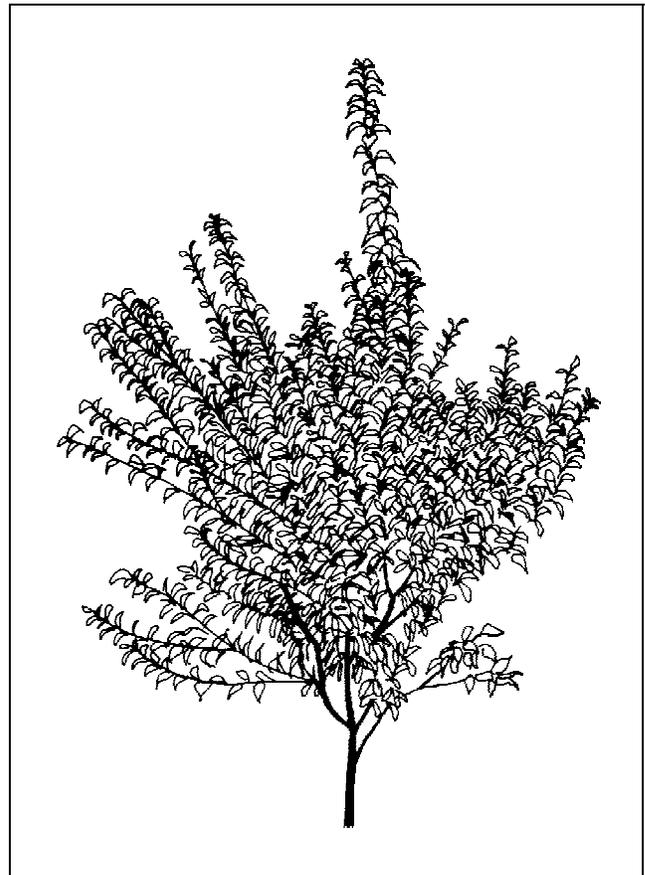


Figure 1. Young Redbud Crabapple.

DESCRIPTION

Height: 20 to 25 feet

Spread: 15 to 30 feet

Crown uniformity: irregular outline or silhouette

Crown shape: spreading

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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

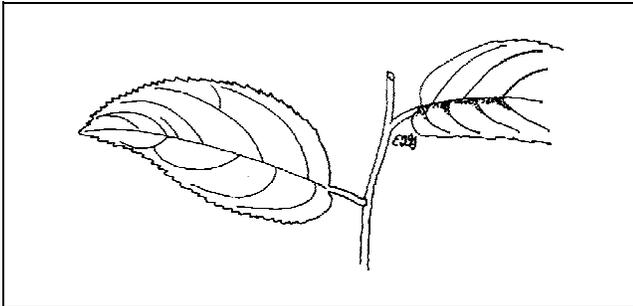


Figure 3. Foliage of Redbud Crabapple.

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.