
Cercis chinensis 'Don Egolf'



The U.S. National Arboretum announces the release of 'Don Egolf', an exciting new redbud. Though covered from "stem to stern" with vivid, rosy mauve flowers in early spring, this cultivar produces no seed. The slow-growing, compact habit of 'Don Egolf' makes it an excellent choice for the smaller garden. Handsome dark green foliage, good disease resistance, and ease of propagation complete the picture of this one-of-a-kind redbud.



U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction
Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

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'Don Egolf' Redbud

Botanical Name:	<i>Cercis chinensis</i> Bunge 'Don Egolf' (NA 63877; PI 584482)
Family:	Fabaceae
Hardiness:	U.S.D.A. Zones 6 – 9
Development:	In 1984, open-pollinated seed of <i>Cercis chinensis</i> collected from cultivated plants growing in the urban and suburban districts of Kunming, Yunnan, Peoples Republic of China, was sent to the U.S. National Arboretum. After 5 years of field testing, beginning in 1986, research staff noted one plant exhibited a fairly slow-growing compact habit and produced no fruit. This selection was propagated and evaluated in 14 states throughout the U.S. for hardiness, ornamental merit, and invasiveness. Released in July, 2000, by Dr. Margaret Pooler, this redbud selection is named in honor of the late Dr. Donald Egolf, renowned shrub breeder at the U.S. National Arboretum.
Significance:	'Don Egolf' is the first redbud cultivar released by the U.S. National Arboretum. It has prolific annual bloom but is fruitless and has exhibited no invasive tendencies. The dark green foliage, slow-growing, compact growth habit, high field tolerance to <i>Botryosphaeria</i> canker, and ease of propagation make it a significant addition to the roster of redbud cultivars.
Description:	Height and width: 9 feet tall and 9.5 feet wide at 15 years. Habit: Deciduous, slow-growing, compact, multistemmed shrub. Foliage: Heavy, dark green, heart-shaped leaves. Flowers: Prolific, bright rosy mauve flowers in early spring. Fruit: None.
Culture:	'Don Egolf' grows well in full sun to partial shade. It tolerates many different soil types and is especially appropriate for areas that tend to be dry or hot. Do not plant in poorly drained areas. Adaptable to acid or alkaline soils.
Propagation:	Roots easily from semi-hardwood cuttings. Rooting occurs in 6 weeks under mist, 3000 ppm IBA. Suitable for commercial propagation by budding or micropropagation.
Landscape Use:	Mixed shrub border; specimen plant; highlight at edge of woodland plantings.
Availability:	Available at wholesale nurseries 2001; available at retail nurseries in 2002–2003.

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