



Friends of SNOW CANYON

What's That Plant??

Western Redbud looks like it belongs in a deciduous woodland back in the eastern states but it is native to Utah, Arizona and California. The flowers are a blaze of color in the spring making it is a highly desirable landscape plant with four season interest.

Look For...

Foliage:

Heart-shaped, apple green leaves emerge in the spring *after* the flowers. In the fall, they often turn red or gold at higher elevations before dropping in winter.



Flowers and Fruit: Show stopping blossoms cover the branches in late spring. The pea-shaped flowers are bright pink to purple and are edible. The fruit is a purplish brown pod about 3" long that may persist through winter.



Habit: Western Redbud is a multi-stemmed shrub or small tree that is rounded or vase-shaped at maturity. It grows 10-20 feet tall and 10-15 feet wide. The bark is dark brown with red tones.

Native Americans used the young, shiny twigs to weave baskets and extracted a red dye from the bark to use on the finished basketry.

Western Redbud *Cercis occidentalis* Fagaceae — Pea or Legume Family



It is always exciting to discover a Western Redbud in flower! In Snow Canyon, look for them at higher elevations in cracks and drainages or along West Canyon Road.