



Cercis gigantea



Height	10 - 15 m
Crown	broad vase-shaped, half-open crown
Bark and branches	first-year branches (dark) brown, bark grey
Leaf	heart-shaped, 15 - 20 cm, glossy green
Autumn colour	yellow
Flowers	pale purplish pink, in clusters, April/May
Fruits	brown, flat pods
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	fertile, moist but not wet, calcareous sandy or loamy soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	7 (-17,7 to -12,3 °C)
Wind resistance	moderate
Fauna tree	valuable for bees (honey plant)
Application	parks, cemeteries, large gardens
Shape	clearstem tree, multi-stem tree
Origin	Central China

Vigorously growing, medium-size to large, often multi-stemmed tree, closely related to *C. chinensis*. The central leaderes grow fairly steeply, forming the broad, vase-shaped crown. The nearly heart-shaped leaves are clearly larger than on *C. chinensis*. They are a light bronze colour on emerging and are bright yellow in autumn. The leaf is fairly thick and feels leathery. The flowers often appear before the leaves develop and stand in compact clusters. Seeds were collected in 1980: it was then thought they were from *C. chinensis*. However, the tree differs from all other *Cercis*, so it is designated *C. gigantea*. Warmth-loving tree that prefers a loamy or fertile, moist but not too wet, calcareous soil in full sun.