

Redbud

(*Cercis* spp. — *Eastern Redbud* *C. canadensis*, *Western Redbud* *C. occidentalis*, and cultivars like ‘Forest Pansy,’ ‘Appalachian Red,’ ‘Rising Sun’)

Redbuds are beloved for their **showy pink spring flowers**, heart-shaped leaves, and attractive form. In Colorado, Eastern Redbud can struggle with **cold snaps**, **drought**, and **alkaline soils**, while Western Redbud is more tolerant but still sensitive to **borers**, **canker diseases**, and **leaf scorch**.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | ☀️ Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Canker diseases	Fungus	Spring–Fall	🌸☀️🍂
Botryosphaeria canker	Fungus	Summer	☀️
Verticillium wilt	Fungus	Spring–Fall	🌸☀️🍂
Borers (flatheaded / roundheaded)	Insect/borer	Summer	☀️

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Leaf spot	Fungus	Spring–Summer	🌸🌻
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	🌸🌻🍂
Leaf scorch / drought stress	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	🌻🍂
Winter injury	Abiotic	Winter–Spring	❄️🌸

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Canker Diseases (Very Common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunken, cracked, or darkened bark • Branch dieback starting at tips • Girdling lesions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune affected limbs back to branch collar • Sanitize tools • Improve vigor—no chemical cure
Botryosphaeria Canker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden wilting of individual branches • Brown inner wood • Often follows drought stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune infected limbs • Deep watering & mulch • Avoid wounding trunk or roots
Verticillium Wilt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowing or wilting on one side • Sparse canopy • Brown streaks under bark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cure—manage stress to slow decline • Prune out affected limbs • Maintain mulch & deep watering

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Borers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exit holes • Sawdust-like frass • Limb dieback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid drought stress • Do not injure trunk • Professional preventive sprays in active years
Leaf Spot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown or black leaf spots • Early leaf drop in wet springs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake leaves • Improve airflow • Fungicide rarely needed
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticky honeydew • Sooty mold • Leaf curling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse foliage • Encourage lady beetles • Systemic treatment if severe
Leaf Scorch / Drought Stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browning edges • Leaves curl or crisp • Early fall color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep water every 2–3 weeks • Mulch to retain soil moisture • Avoid hot, exposed planting sites
Winter Injury (Common on Eastern Redbud)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead buds or branch tips after late freeze • Patchy leaf-out in spring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune deadwood in late spring • Plant in protected microclimates (east/north exposures)

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Multiple branches dying from canker infections
- One-sided dieback with wilt (possible **Verticillium**)
- Repeated severe scorch during hot summers
- Borer exit holes + canopy thinning
- Cold damage preventing normal spring leaf-out

- Progressive decline over several seasons

These may require **professional evaluation**, especially if borer or canker involvement is suspected.

● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Light leaf spotting
- Mild aphid activity early in season
- Slight scorch during hot, dry periods
- Uneven spring leaf-out after mild winter injury
- Early fall color during drought

These typically resolve with **proper watering and seasonal recovery**.