

Screening of *Cercis* (Redbud) Taxa for Ability to Root From Cuttings[®]

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The redbud (*Cercis* species) is a popular landscape small tree or shrub that is valued commercially for its early spring bloom and adaptability to a variety of environmental conditions. Despite its value to the nursery and landscape industries, large-scale production of redbud has been limited, due in part to the difficulty of propagating clonal (cultivar) material. We screened 11 *Cercis* taxa for the ability of stem cuttings to regenerate adventitious roots using four growth-regulator treatments: Dyna-Gro K-L-N, Woods Rooting Compound, Hormo-Root 2, and KIBA. Overall, *C. chingii*, *C. glabra*, and *C. yunnanensis* had the highest percentage of cuttings that produced roots. The Hormo-Root 2 treatment resulted in the highest rooting percentage over all taxa combined. *Cercis chingii* produced the most roots, while *C. gigantea*, *C. siliquastrum*, and *C. yunnanensis* produced the longest roots. Selected clones from this study will be used in our established *Cercis* breeding program to broaden the genetic base of cultivated *Cercis* and to produce redbuds with superior ornamental and disease-resistance traits that are easier to propagate.