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**Jackson et al.**

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(54) **CERCIS PLANT NAMED ‘JN21’**

(50) Latin Name: *Cercis canadensis*  
Varietal Denomination: **JN21**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Cercis* plant named ‘JN21’,  
characterized by its compact and upright plant habit; rela-  
tively vigorous growth habit and rapid growth rate; rela-  
tively large, thick and glossy leaves that are dark red purple  
in color when developing; and good garden performance and  
cold hardiness.

**3 Drawing Sheets**

**1**

Botanical designation: *Cercis canadensis*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘JN21’.

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a new and distinct *Cercis*  
plant, botanically known as *Cercis canadensis*, commer-  
cially referred to as Eastern Redbud and hereinafter referred  
to by the name ‘JN21’.

The new *Cercis* plant is a product of a planned breeding  
program conducted by the Inventors in Belvidere, Tenn. The  
objective of the breeding program was to develop new  
*Cercis* plants with large attractive leaves and cold hardiness.

The new *Cercis* plant originated from an open-pollination  
of an unnamed selection of *Cercis canadensis*, not patented,  
as the female, or seed, parent with an unknown selection of  
*Cercis canadensis* as the male, or pollen, parent. The new  
*Cercis* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventors as  
a single plant within the progeny of the stated open-pollina-  
tion in a controlled nursery environment in Belvidere,  
Tenn. in April, 2015.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Cercis* plant by chip  
budding onto a proprietary seedling *Cercis* rootstock in a  
controlled environment in Belvidere, Tenn. since September,  
2015 has shown that the unique features of this new *Cercis*  
plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive  
generations.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Plants of the new *Cercis* have not been observed under all  
possible combinations of environmental conditions and cul-  
tural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with  
variations in environmental conditions such as temperature  
and light intensity without, however, any variance in geno-  
type.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and  
are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘JN21’.

**2**

These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘JN21’ as a  
new and distinct *Cercis* plant:

1. Compact and upright plant habit.
2. Relatively vigorous growth habit and rapid growth rate.
3. Relatively large, thick and glossy leaves that are dark  
red purple in color when developing.
4. Good garden performance and cold hardiness.

Plants of the new *Cercis* can be compared to plants of the  
female parent selection. Plants of the new *Cercis* differ from  
plants of the female parent selection in the following char-  
acteristics:

1. Leaves of plants of the new *Cercis* are larger, thicker  
and glossier than leaves of plants of the female parent  
selection.
2. Developing leaves of plants of the new *Cercis* are dark  
red purple in color whereas developing leaves of plants  
of the female parent selection are green in color.

Plants of the new *Cercis* can be compared to plants of  
*Cercis reniformis* ‘Oklahoma’, not patented. In side-by-side  
comparisons, plants of the new *Cercis* differ primarily from  
plants of ‘Oklahoma’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Cercis* are more vigorous than plants  
of ‘Oklahoma’.
2. Plants of the new *Cercis* have larger leaves than plants  
of ‘Oklahoma’.
3. Plants of the new *Cercis* are more cold hardy than  
plants of ‘Oklahoma’.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the  
overall appearance of the new *Cercis* plant showing the  
colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored  
reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may  
differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed  
botanical description which accurately describe the colors of  
the new *Cercis* plant.



The photograph on the first sheet is a side perspective view of a typical three-year old tree of 'JN21' grown in an outdoor nursery.

The photograph on the second sheet is a close-up view of the upper surface of typical leaves of 'JN21'.

The photograph on the third sheet is a close-up view of typical flowers of 'JN21'.

#### DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The aforementioned photographs and following observations, measurements and values describe trees grown during the spring and summer in an outdoor nursery in Belvidere, Tenn. and Park Hill, Okla. and under cultural practices typical of commercial *Cercis* production. During the production of the plants, day temperatures averaged 30° C. and night temperatures averaged 26° C. Plants were two years old when the description was taken. In the description, color references are made to The Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 2001 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary significance are used.

Botanical classification: *Cercis canadensis* 'JN21'.

Parentage:

*Female, or seed, parent.*—Unnamed selection of *Cercis canadensis*, not patented.

*Male, or pollen, parent.*—Unknown selection of *Cercis canadensis*, not patented.

Propagation:

*Type.*—By chip budding onto a proprietary seedling *Cercis* rootstock.

*Root description.*—Medium in thickness, fibrous; white in color.

*Rooting habit.*—Moderately freely branching; medium density.

Plant description:

*Plant and growth habit.*—Deciduous tree; relatively compact plant habit; overall shape, broad oval; vigorous growth habit and rapid growth rate.

*Branching habit.*—Freely branching habit with about 11 to 15 primary branches each with about 8 to 11 secondary branches.

*Plant height.*—About 1.9 meters.

*Plant diameter (area of spread).*—About 1.5 meters.

Lateral branch description:

*Length.*—Variable depending on position on the tree, average, about 70 cm.

*Diameter.*—About 8 mm.

*Internode length.*—About 4.4 cm.

*Aspect.*—Moderately upswept, about 45° from vertical.

*Strength.*—Moderately strong, firm.

*Texture and luster.*—Smooth, glabrous; semi-glossy.

*Color.*—Developing, close to N202A; at the internodes, close to N200A; developed, close to N200A.

Leaf description:

*Arrangement.*—Alternate, single.

*Length.*—About 14.9 cm.

*Width.*—About 13.8 cm.

*Shape.*—Reniform.

*Apex.*—Acute.

*Base.*—Cordate.

*Margin.*—Entire.

*Texture and luster, upper surface.*—Smooth, glabrous; glossy.

*Texture and luster, lower surface.*—Smooth, glabrous; matte.

*Venation pattern.*—Palmate.

*Color.*—Developing leaves, upper surface: Close to N186A. Developing leaves, lower surface: Close to N79B. Fully expanded leaves, upper surface: Close to N77A; venation, close to 132A. Fully expanded leaves, lower surface: Close to 138B and 59C; venation, close to 59A. Autumn leaf color, upper surface: Close to 151C. Autumn leaf color, lower surface: Close to 144C tinged with close to 161B.

*Petioles.*—Length: About 4.4 cm. Diameter: About 2 mm. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; semi-glossy. Color, upper surface: Close to 202A. Color, lower surface: Close to 187B.

Flower description:

*Flower arrangement and flowering habit.*—Single papilionaceous flowers arranged in terminal and axillary racemes with about seven flowers per raceme; freely flowering habit with about 8,000 flowers developing during the flowering season; flowers face mostly upright.

*Natural flowering season.*—Plants of the new *Cercis* flower in the mid-spring in Oklahoma; flowers last about ten days on the plant; flowers not persistent.

*Fragrance.*—None detected.

*Inflorescence diameter.*—About 1.2 cm.

*Inflorescence height.*—About 2.3 cm.

*Flower diameter.*—About 3 mm.

*Flower height.*—About 6 mm.

*Flower depth.*—About 1.5 mm.

*Flower buds.*—Length: About 1.5 mm. Diameter: About 1 mm. Shape: Ovoid. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color: Close to 202A.

*Petals.*—Arrangement: Typically five petals in a single whorl with upper three petals forming a banner (or standard) petal and lower petals forming a keel. Length, banner: About 6 mm. Length, keel: About 2.5 mm. Width, banner: About 2 mm. Width, keel: About 1 mm. Shape, all petals: Roughly ovoid. Apex, all petals: Rounded. Base, all petals: Rounded. Margin, all petals: Entire. Texture and luster, all petals: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color, all petals: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to N78B. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to N74B; color does not change with development.

*Sepals.*—Arrangement: Typically five sepals in a single whorl; calyx roughly ovoid in shape. Length: About 4 mm. Width: About 2 mm. Shape: Ovate. Apex: Acute to rounded. Base: Cuneate. Margin: Entire. Texture and luster, upper and lower surfaces: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color: When opening, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 60B. Fully opened, upper and lower surfaces: Close to 60D.

*Pedicels.*—Length: About 1 cm. Diameter: About 0.5 mm. Aspect: About 30° from the stem axis. Strength: Moderately strong. Texture and luster: Smooth, glabrous; matte. Color: Close to 71B.

*Reproductive organs.*—Androecium: Stamen number: About ten per flower. Filament length: About 1 mm. Filament color: Close to 69D. Anther shape: Oblong. Anther length: About 0.5 mm. Anther color: Close to 18C. Amount of pollen: Moderate. Pollen color: Close to 161B. Gynoecium: Pistil number: One per flower. Pistil length: About 1 cm. Style length: About



7.5 mm. Style color: Close to 71C. Stigma diameter:  
About 0.5 mm. Stigma shape: Rounded. Stigma  
color: Close to 145C. Ovary color: Close to 137B.  
*Seeds and fruits.*—To date, seed and fruit development  
have not been observed on plants of the new *Cercis*.  
Garden performance: Plants of the new *Cercis* have been  
observed to have good garden performance and to tolerate  
wind, rain and to be suitable for USDA Hardiness Zones  
5 to 8.

Pathogen & pest resistance: To date, plants of the new *Cercis*  
have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and  
pests common to *Cercis* plants.

It is claimed:  
1. A new and distinct *Cercis* plant named ‘JN21’ as  
illustrated and described.

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