## 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)
- **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.