

The Judas Tree	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Is- Sigra ta' Ġuda
Common English name	Scientific name	Maltese name

Where is this tree found in the world – (Species Distribution)

It is native to the Eastern Mediterranean region, southern Europe and western Asia and found in the Maltese Islands too.

What is the preferred habitat for this tree?

May be found in arid warm woodlands or maquis but has been used in urban landscaping. It can tolerate drought.

Is it green all year (ever green) or does it change according to the season (deciduous)?

It is deciduous.

How tall can it grow? (Usual or maximum height)

It may grow to a max of 10m with many branches.

What are the leaves and flowers like?

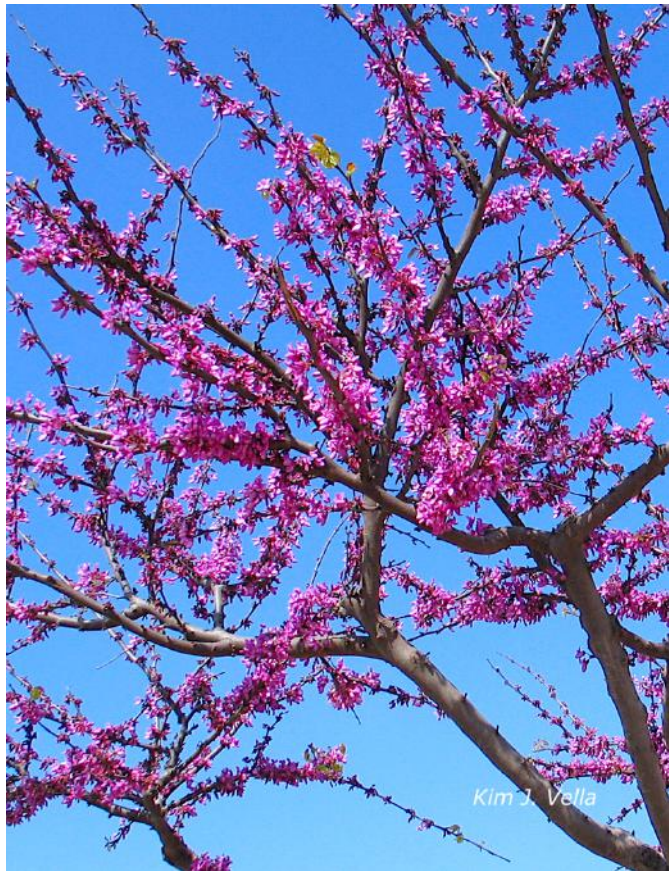
After extensive blooming of beautiful pink flowers, bright green rounded heart shape leaves are formed in spring.

What are the fruits like?

Once the flowers are bee pollinated, purple pods from late summer.

What do humans use this tree for?

It is highly ornamental especially when in bloom. It also encourages pollinating bees' survival through the nectar it provides. It also attracts various other organisms.



Does this tree have legal protection?

The African tamarisk is protected within protected areas, in areas outside the development zone (ODZ), in green areas, and natural or rural/green enclaves in urban areas or in urban public open spaces. (according to the ERA 2018 list of trees and woodland protection regulations).