Samurai Sword Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Samarzam'

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

An excellent shade tree where space is limited, with a full canopy of dense burgundy foliage; this oval to pyramidal variety is vigorous and hardy; growth is rapid when young

Ornamental Features

Samurai Sword Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape for its decidedly oval form. It has attractive burgundy deciduous foliage. The lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding red in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Samurai Sword Japanese Maple is a deciduous tree with a shapely oval form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned in summer after the leaves have fully developed, as it may 'bleed' sap if pruned in late winter or early spring. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Samurai Sword Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Samurai Sword Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Samurai Sword Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Samurai Sword Japanese Maple will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 5 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Samurai Sword Japanese Maple is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.