Moonfire Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Moonfire'



Moonfire Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

A superb small home landscape tree with beautiful rich purple leaves that last through the season turning brilliant red in fall, artistic spreading habit of growth; a fine choice for small home landscapes and shrub gardens

Ornamental Features

Moonfire Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It features subtle corymbs of red flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring before the leaves. It has attractive burgundy deciduous foliage. The lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding red in the fall. The rough gray bark and red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Moonfire Japanese Maple is an open deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

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.

Moonfire Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Mass Planting

Planting & Growing

Moonfire Japanese Maple will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 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.