Cutleaf Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Asplenifolium'



Cutleaf Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Group/Class: Dissectum

Description:

A phenomenal small landscape tree with finely dissected palm-like leaves and stunning fall colors in red and burgundy; fine texture and rich fall colors make this a stunning accent for small home landscapes

Ornamental Features

Cutleaf Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden 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 dark green deciduous foliage which emerges burgundy in spring. The deeply cut ferny palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of red and burgundy in the fall. The rough gray bark and red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.



Cutleaf Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Cutleaf Japanese Maple is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

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.

Cutleaf Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening

Planting & Growing

Cutleaf Japanese Maple will grow to be about 12 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow 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.