Ryu Sei Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Ryu Sei'



Ryu Sei Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Millenium Green Japanese Maple, Ryusen

Description:

A cascading variety with small green leaves; if left natural it will become groundcover; when staked it will form a weeping column; beautiful hues of yellow and orange in the fall; excellent as a small garden accent



Ryu Sei Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Ryu Sei Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its highly ornamental weeping form. It has attractive light green deciduous foliage. The small lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of gold and orange in the fall. The smooth gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Ryu Sei Japanese Maple is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a rounded form and gracefully weeping branches. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, 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.

Ryu Sei Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Ryu Sei Japanese Maple will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This shrub 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.

Ryu Sei Japanese Maple makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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.