Sherwood Elfin Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Sherwood Elfin'



Sherwood Elfin Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Group/Class: Dissectum

Description:

This selection has delicate, small dissected and toothed leaves, which emerge bright red in spring, maturing to dark red, then turning deep purple-red in fall; interesting cascading branches on a relatively upright small plant; a great garden accent

Ornamental Features

Sherwood Elfin Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has attractive dark red deciduous foliage which emerges red in spring. The small deeply cut ferny palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding plum purple in the fall.



Sherwood Elfin Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Sherwood Elfin Japanese Maple is a deciduous tree with a strong central leader and an upright spreading habit of growth. 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.

Sherwood Elfin Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Sherwood Elfin Japanese Maple will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot 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 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.

Sherwood Elfin Japanese Maple is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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.