Cutleaf Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Dissectum'

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Group/Class: Dissectum

Description:

This wonderful small feature tree posesses fine ferny foliage that's rich green in summer and turns blazing orange-red in fall; a great choice for a solitary accent in the garden, one of the hardiest Japanese maples



Cutleaf Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Cutleaf Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its cascading habit of growth. It has attractive green deciduous foliage. The small deeply cut ferny palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of orange, scarlet and crimson in the fall.



Cutleaf Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Cutleaf Japanese Maple is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. 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 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.

Cutleaf Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Cutleaf Japanese Maple in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Cutleaf Japanese Maple will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy 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 80 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.

Cutleaf 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.