Red Emperor Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Red Emperor'



Red Emperor Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

An upright feature tree for the home landscape, with rich dark red leaves in summer, turning brilliant scarlet in fall; a very artistic spreading growth habit; put it in a prominent place and give it lots of room to grow

Ornamental Features

Red Emperor Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It features subtle corymbs of red flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring before the leaves. It has attractive dark red deciduous foliage which emerges brick red in spring. The lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding scarlet in the fall. The rough gray bark and red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.



Red Emperor Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Red Emperor Japanese Maple is a deciduous tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

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.

Red Emperor Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Red Emperor Japanese Maple will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 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 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.