Beni Komachi Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Beni Komachi'



Beni Komachi Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Beni Komachi Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

This cultivar features striking, intense red foliage in spring if given plenty of sunlight; matures to a reddish-green during summer, but turns bright scarlet to crimson in fall; perfect for the periphery of borders or rock gardens

Ornamental Features

Beni Komachi Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its cascading habit of growth. It has attractive red-variegated green foliage with hints of coppery-bronze which emerges red in spring. The small twisted lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of scarlet and in the fall. It produces red samaras from early to mid fall. The rough gray bark and red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Beni Komachi Japanese Maple is an open deciduous tree with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

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.

Beni Komachi Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting

Planting & Growing

Beni Komachi Japanese Maple will grow to be about 12 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 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.