Eagle's Claw Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Eagle's Claw'



Eagle's Claw Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 7 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Kamagata, Washi-no-o Japanese Maple

Description:

An elegant selection, this dwarf variety presents green, deeply divided leaves that are finely toothed, giving a soft appearance; beautiful fall colors in tones of golden yellow and orange, excellent for bonsai and containers or as a garden accent

Ornamental Features

Eagle's Claw Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its cascading habit of growth. It has attractive light green foliage edged in red which emerges green in spring. The small lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of gold, yellow and orange in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Eagle's Claw Japanese Maple is a dense deciduous tree with a strong central leader and 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.

Eagle's Claw Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Eagle's Claw Japanese Maple will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 7 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. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. 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.

Eagle's Claw Japanese Maple is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting 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.