Oto Hime Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Oto Hime'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Otohime, Little Queen Japanese Maple



Oto Hime Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

This attractive variety produces small, lobed and toothed leaves that emerge yellow with red edges in spring, maturing into a pleasant green in summer; in fall they shift to orange, but could also include red or yellow; a regal addition to the garden



Oto Hime Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Oto Hime Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the garden for its broadly spreading habit of growth. It has attractive green foliage with hints of chartreuse which emerges red in spring. The small serrated lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of orange, yellow and red in the fall. The dark red stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Oto Hime Japanese Maple is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which should be used to full effect.

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.

Oto Hime Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Oto Hime Japanese Maple will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 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. 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.

Oto Hime 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 spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. 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.