Okukuji Nishiki Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Okukuji Nishiki'

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

A beautiful variegated selection featuring chartreuse new foliage with pink margins that mature to creamy white; bright red and pink fall color; solid green foliage should be pruned away; makes a fantastic ornamental accent for the front yard



Okukuji Nishiki Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Okukuji Nishiki Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Okukuji Nishiki Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has attractive creamy white-variegated chartreuse foliage with hints of pink which emerges pink in spring. The small serrated lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of red and pink in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Okukuji Nishiki Japanese Maple is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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.

Okukuji Nishiki Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Okukuji Nishiki Japanese Maple will grow to be about 10 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, 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 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.

Okukuji Nishiki Japanese Maple makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base 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.