Rite of Spring Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Rite of Spring'



Rite of Spring Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

An amazing accent tree featuring narrow, deeply divided leaves that emerge bright red in spring, darkening to burgundy red in summer, then back to bright crimson red in fall; has an elegant, upright habit; an exceptional focal point for the garden

Ornamental Features

Rite of Spring Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has attractive burgundy foliage with hints of chartreuse which emerges red in spring. The serrated lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding crimson in the fall. The red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.



Rite of Spring Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Rite of Spring Japanese Maple is a dense deciduous tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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.

Rite of Spring Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Rite of Spring Japanese Maple will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 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. 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.

Rite of Spring Japanese Maple is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting 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.