Vine Maple

Acer circinatum



Vine Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

This west coast native makes an exceptional landscape tree for smaller yards and gardens; brilliant fall color; attracts nesting birds; best with some shelter, needs moist soil, water more if grown in full sun

Ornamental Features

Vine Maple has attractive light green deciduous foliage on a plant with an oval habit of growth. The lobed leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of orange and in the fall. It has corymbs of chartreuse flowers with red calyces in mid spring. It produces red samaras in early fall.



Vine Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Vine Maple is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a shapely oval form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

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.

Vine Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Vine Maple will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 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 medium 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 full 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 requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. 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 quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This species is native to parts of North America.