Autumn Spire Red Maple

Acer rubrum 'Autumn Spire'

Height: 50 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Swamp Maple, Scarlet Maple

Description:

A distinctive narrow accent tree with reliable red fall color and showy red flowers in spring, its compact size makes this a better choice for small home landscapes; intolerant of alkaline soils



Autumn Spire Red Maple in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Autumn Spire Red Maple is primarily valued in the landscape for its rigidly columnar form. It features showy clusters of red flowers along the branches in early spring before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage which emerges red in spring. The lobed leaves turn an outstanding red in the fall. The furrowed silver bark and brick red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.



Autumn Spire Red Maple in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Autumn Spire Red Maple is a deciduous tree with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. 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 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.

Autumn Spire Red Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Vertical Accent

Planting & Growing

Autumn Spire Red Maple will grow to be about 50 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 6 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.



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Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder