Kiri Nishiki Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Kiri Nishiki'

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Group/Class: Dissectum



Kiri Nishiki Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

This rare and unusual cultivar grows wider than tall with a commanding graceful elegance; the deeply divided leaves create an airy fine texture that appears to float on the landscape; autumn brings warm orange overtones on the golden yellow foliage



Kiri Nishiki Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Kiri Nishiki Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It has attractive light green deciduous foliage. The small deeply cut ferny palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of gold, orange and red in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Kiri Nishiki Japanese Maple is an open deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a more or less rounded form. 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 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.

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

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

Planting & Growing

Kiri Nishiki Japanese Maple will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, 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 80 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. 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.

Kiri Nishiki Japanese Maple is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants 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.