

## Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)

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### Summary:

Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf

Height: 60 feet

Spread: 60 feet

Shape: Oval to round

Red maple is a fast-growing medium/large shade tree species with a spectacular fall foliage color. It has showy red flowers in the spring. There are many cultivars of this species that vary in form, tolerance of wet conditions, and fall color.

### Plant Needs:

Zone: 3 to 10

Light: Partial shade to full sun

Moisture: Wet, moist, or dry

Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay

pH Range: 3.7 to 7.0

### Functions:

Suggested uses for this plant include shade, street tree, specimen plant, and naturalizing.

### Planting Notes:

Tolerates wide range of soils, except those with a very high pH.

### Care:

Prune dead and/or damaged wood any time of year.

### Problems:

Red maple is somewhat subject to storm damage.

Iron chlorosis (an iron deficiency) is a frequent problem in soils with a high pH.

Surface roots in lawn areas can make mowing difficult.

### Alternatives:

Consult local garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

Cultivars of *Acer rubrum*:

Red Sunset® has excellent red to orange fall color and round shape.

October Glory® has a round shape, red fall color, and tends to retain its leaves until later in the fall.

'Autumn Flame' has an early display of red fall color and a round shape.

There are many cultivars of this species that vary in form, tolerance of wet conditions, and fall color.

Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) is a large fast-growing species that is not suited to most landscapes since it is prone to several pests and is relatively weak wooded. It has a fair fall foliage color at best. This species is suitable for waterside plantings since it tolerates wet soils but one must recognize its shortcomings.

**Comments:**

Red maple has a profusion of small, red flowers in early spring. This species' fast-growing nature, flower and fall foliage color display make it a desirable landscape species especially for someone who does not want to wait a long time to have a medium sized tree. One should investigate the characteristics of available cultivars before purchasing a plant.

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