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## ***Acer palmatum* 'Red Select'**

Japanese Maple

**Aceraceae (Maple)**

**Type** Tree, woody plant

**Hardy range** 5B to 8A

**Height** 10' to 12' / 3.00m to 3.60m

**Spread** 15' to 20' / 4.60m to 6.00m

**Growth rate** Slow

**Form** Rounded and weeping

**Exposure** Full shade to full sun

**Persistence** Deciduous

**Bloom Color** Red

**Bloom Time** Spring

### **Native Habitat**

Korea, China, Japan

### **Crown, Branch and Twig**

This plant is symmetrical with a fine texture and has a moderately dense crown.

This plant's bark is thin and showy.

Branches or twigs are thin.

This plant is often grown with multiple trunks.

Branches droop.

This plant can be trained to a single trunk.

This plant has low flammability.

### **Culture Notes**

This large shrub or small tree tends to leaf out early so it may be injured by spring frosts. To keep foliage looking best, protect plants from direct wind exposure and direct sun by locating in partial or filtered shade. A spot with well-drained, acid soil with plenty of organic matter, particularly in the southern part of its range is best. Leaves often scorch in hot summer weather in USDA hardiness zones 7b and 8, unless they are in some shade or irrigated during dry weather. Some cultivars perform poorly in zones

## **Maple, Japanese 'Red Select'**

**Leaf Color** Green

**Fall Color** Copper, orange, red and yellow

This plant has attractive foliage and attractive fall colors.

### **Leaf Identification**

**Type:** Simple

**Arrangement:** Opposite

**Venations:** Palmate

**Margins:** Lobed and serrate

**Shapes:** Star-shaped

**Length:** 2in./5cm to 4in./10cm

**Fruit Color** Red

The fruit is dry and elongated.

### **Environment**

This plant tolerates some drought.

This plant will grow in dry soil.

Suitable soil is well-drained/loamy, sandy or clay.

The pH preference is an acidic to slightly alkaline (less than 6.8 to 7.7) soil.

### **Landscape Uses**

- Rock garden
- Cascade
- Specimen

### **Attributes and Features**

- Inconspicuous blooms



7 and 8.

Be sure drainage at the site is good and water does not stand for more than a few hours after heavy rain. Trees grow fine on clay soils as long as the ground is sloped so water does not accumulate in the soil. Responds well to several inches of mulch placed beneath the canopy out of the edge of the branches. This allows roots to grow in the loose, well oxygen rich mulch-soil interface and can reduce incidence of leaf burn.

Be sure to clear all turf away from beneath the branches to reduce competition with turf. Train the trunks and branches so they will not touch each other. Eliminate or remove some secondary branches on main branches with included bark or those which are likely to develop it as soon as possible. This reduces the likelihood of one splitting from the tree later when it has grown to become an important part of the landscape. Locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size. The tree can enhance any landscape with its delightful spring flush of foliage. It can be the centerpiece of your landscape if properly located.

### **Tree establishment specifications**

Choose good quality trees for planting. The most common cause of young tree failure is planting too deep. In most instances, the point where the top-most root in the root ball originates from the trunk (referred to as the root flare zone or root collar) should be located just above the soil surface. You may have to dig into the root ball to find the root flare. If there is nursery soil over this area, scrape it off. Never place ANY soil over the root ball. The planting hole should be at least twice the width of the root ball, preferably wider because roots grow best in loose soil. In all but exceptional circumstances where the soil is very poor, extensive research clearly shows that there is no need to incorporate any amendments into the backfill soil. Simply use the loosened soil that came out of the planting hole. Simply planting with the topmost portion of the root ball slightly higher than the surrounding soil might still install the tree too deep - be sure to locate the root flare.

Weed suppression during establishment is essential. Apply a 3-inch thick layer of mulch to at least a six-foot diameter circle around the tree. This area should be at least two feet in diameter for each inch of tree trunk diameter and maintained during the establishment period. Apply a thinner layer of mulch directly over the root ball but keep it at least 10 inches from the trunk. This allows rainwater, irrigation and air to easily enter the root ball and keeps the trunk dry. Placing mulch against the trunk and applying too thick a layer above the root ball can kill the plant by oxygen starvation, death of bark, stem and root diseases, prevention of hardening off for winter, vole and other rodent damage to the trunk, keeping soil too wet, or repelling water.

Regular irrigation after planting encourages rapid root growth that is essential for tree establishment. Trees provided with regular irrigation through the first growing season after transplanting require about 3 months (hardiness zones 9-11), 6 months (hardiness zones 7-8), or one year or more (hardiness zones 2-6) per inch of trunk diameter to fully establish roots in the landscape soil. Trees in desert climates may take longer to establish. Trees that are under-irrigated during this establishment period (and most trees are) often require additional time to establish because roots grow more slowly. Be prepared to irrigate through the entire establishment period, especially during periods of drought.

Irrigation also helps maintain and encourage the desirable dominant leader in the tree canopy on large-maturing trees. Instead of a dominant leader, trees that are under-irrigated during the establishment period often develop undesirable, low, co-dominant stems and double leaders that can split from the tree later.

Unlike established plants, which do best with deep, infrequent irrigation, research clearly shows that recently transplanted trees and shrubs establish quickest with light, frequent irrigation. For trees planted in spring or summer, provide one (cooler hardiness zones) to three irrigations (warmer hardiness zones) each week during the first few months after planting. Daily irrigation in the warmest hardiness zones provides the quickest establishment. Following the initial few months of frequent irrigation, provide weekly irrigation until plants are fully established. With every irrigation, apply one (cool climates) to two (warm climates) gallons of water per inch trunk diameter (e.g. 2 to 4 gallons for a 2-inch tree) over the root ball only. In most landscapes that receive more than 30 inches of rain or irrigation annually, if the mulch area is maintained weed-free, irrigation does not need to be applied outside of the root ball. Never add water if the root ball is saturated.

In cooler hardiness zones, in all but the driest years, irrigation of spring- and summer-planted trees usually can be discontinued once fall color has begun. Irrigation of fall planted trees, however, should be continued until foliage has dropped from the deciduous trees in the region. In warmer climates, irrigate fall-and winter-planted trees as described for the spring- and summer-planted trees.

In drier, desert climates there is benefit to be gained from applying additional irrigation outside of the root ball area. This is best done by making a large diameter berm four to six inches high, then filling it with water so it percolates into the soil. For the first two years, irrigate twice each week through the spring, once per week in summer provided monsoons arrive, and twice each



week again in fall if it remains warm. Taper off watering to once or twice each month in winter and resume twice weekly next spring. For years three to five, water twice per month in spring, summer, and fall and once or twice per month in winter. During years five through seven, water once every three weeks in warm weather and once every six weeks in winter. After this, the drought-tolerant desert trees should be able to survive on natural rainfall.

Trees with good, strong structure need no pruning at planting, except to remove broken twigs. Do not remove branches to compensate for root loss - research has shown that this can be detrimental to establishment.

### **Pests, Diseases and Damaging Agents**

Aphids, scales and borers can be found on the Maples. Scorch occurs during periods of high temperatures accompanied by wind. Verticillium wilt can kill plants. Asian longhorned beetle, a new pest in certain sections of the US since 1996, attacks and kills maples.

This genus is sensitive to fluoride air pollution, sources of which include glass and brick manufacturing plants and other facilities that heat or treat with acid materials containing fluoride. Symptoms due to fluoride injury are more prominent on the side of the plant facing the pollution source. In deciduous plants, symptoms include leaf browning along the margins of the leaves. A dark brownish band may appear along the boundary between healthy green tissue and the affected brown tissue. Eventually, the entire leaf may turn brown. In conifers, the tips of the current year's needles turn reddish brown. Older needles are typically unaffected. If you suspect fluoride has injured this plant, look in the neighborhood for gladiolus plants. They serve as indicator plants for fluoride air pollution damage because they are very sensitive to it. Other sensitive plants include ash, maple, oak, white pine, poplar, and redbud. Plants that resist injury include birch, flowering cherry, dogwood, hawthorn, American linden, juniper, pear, spirea and sweet gum.

