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Maple, Red 'October Glory®'

Leaf Color Green
Fall Color Orange, red and yellow
This plant has attractive fall colors.

Leaf Identification

Type: Simple
Arrangement: Opposite
Venations: Palmate
Margins: Incised, 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, flooding and a little salt. This plant will grow in dry to wet or submerged 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

- Street tree
- Specimen

Attributes and Features

- Attracts birds
- Attractive fruit

Acer rubrum 'October Glory®' Red Maple, Swamp Maple Aceraceae (Maple)

Type Tree, woody plant

Hardy range 5A to 8A

Height 25' to 50' / 7.60m to 15.20m

Spread 25' to 35' / 7.60m to 10.60m

Growth rate Fast

Form Oval and rounded

Exposure Partial shade or partial sun to full sun

Persistence Deciduous

Bloom Color Red

Bloom Time Spring

Native Habitat

Species is native to North America

Crown, Branch and Twig

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

This plant's bark is not showy.

Branches or twigs are of medium thickness.

This plant typically grows with one trunk.

This plant has low flammability.

Culture Notes

Red Maple is over-planted in many areas and should be used less often to produce a more sustainable urban forest. The tree makes the best growth in wet places and has no other particular soil preference except chlorosis may develop on alkaline soil where it also grows poorly. It is well-suited as a street tree in northern and mid-south climates in residential and other suburban areas but the bark is thin and easily damaged by mowers. Irrigation is often needed to support street tree plantings in well-drained soil in the south. Red maple is a fairly good compartmentalizer of decay.



October Glory (cultivar name is 'PNI 0268') can be grown in zone 8 in the western US but may have some trouble in the southern portion of zone 8 in the eastern US. Zone 8A is probably OK for the eastern US where it develops good fall color. October Glory is probably better suited for the south than 'Franksred' (Red Sunset). The plant is a female and sets ample fruit and no allergenic pollen. October Glory holds its foliage well into fall compared to Red Sunset. Red Sunset defoliates earlier.

Roots can raise sidewalks as silver maples can but they have a less aggressive root system and so they make a good street tree. Surface roots beneath the canopy can make mowing difficult. Branches often grow upright through the crown forming poor attachments to the trunk. These should be reduced in the nursery or after planting in the landscape to help prevent branch failure in older trees during storms. Soft wood results in mid-limb failure in ice storms. Storms also break out sprouts from previous topping cuts. This cultivar is easier to prune than the species and is less prone to develop poor form.

Maintain adequate mulch area

Clear all turf away from beneath the branches and mulch to the drip line, especially on young trees, to reduce competition with turf and weeds. This will allow roots to become well established and keep plants healthier. Prune the tree so trunks and branches will not rub each other. Remove some secondary branches on main branches with included bark. This reduces the likelihood of the main branch 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.

Pests, Diseases and Damaging Agents

Pests: Mites, aphids and twig borers cause some cosmetic damage to the tree. This cultivar has been shown to be more susceptible to leaf hopper injury than many other cultivars. Asian longhorn beetle, a new pest in certain sections of the US since 1996, attacks and kills maples.

Diseases: Anthracnose, scorch and nutrient deficiencies can also be troublesome. Considered a minor host for this disease, bacterial leaf scorch causes leaf scorch, premature browning, and gradual decline of trees. There is often a yellow line or hollow separating the scorched tissue from green tissue. Infection probably spreads by root grafts and certainly by leafhoppers, spittlebugs and sharpshooters. Pruning tools are not likely spread the disease. Neither fertilization nor pruning have any effect on treatment of the disease. There may be chemical treatment that can reduce symptoms but nothing will cure an infected tree. Bacterial leaf scorch can kill trees in several years.

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.

Special Notes

This plant has aggressive roots.

