

Scientific Name: *Acer rubrum*

Common Names: Red Maple
Swamp Maple

Hardiness Zones: 3–9

Mature Size: 70' tall x 40' wide; 'Cultivars' smaller

Habit: Pyramidal to elliptical

Growth Rate: Medium–fast

Bark: Soft gray to gray–brown

Leaf Color: Emerging red–tinged, then becoming medium–dark green

Fall Color: Green–yellow to yellow to red; 'Cultivars' best for fall color

Flowers: Red and noticeable before foliage; March–April

Fruit: Samara

Disease & Insect Problems: Leaf scorch and Verticillium wilt, but not common

Culture: Tolerant of many soils and pH levels; will tolerate wet soil; full to partial sun; shows manganese deficiency (chlorosis) in high pH soil

Recommended Cultivars:

- 'Autumn Flame': smaller leaf; red fall color two weeks earlier than species
- 'Autumn Radiance': glowing fall color two weeks early; 'October Glory' x 'Red Sunset'
- 'Autumn Spire': columnar; scarlet fall color; very hardy
- 'Bowhall': upright and pyramidal but wider; yellow–orange–red fall color
- 'Columnare': upright and tolerant of dry summer conditions
- 'Franksred' (Red Sunset®): upright; outstanding orange–red fall color
- 'October Glory': rounded; crimson fall color develops later than others
- 'Red Rocket': upright cold hardy and intense red fall color
- 'Sun Valley': long lasting orange–red fall color; 'Red Sunset' x 'Autumn Flame'

Author Notes: Straight species is a large shade tree. 'Cultivars' would be considered a medium common shade and autumn accent tree and are preferred. The Red Maple is an excellent specimen tree and is valued for its relatively quick growth, good shade, and elegant symmetry in youth. Surface roots can be a concern.

