

Shade Tree (over 30')
Deciduous
Native
Map #57

Red Maple

(Acer rubrum)
Family: Aceraceae



Leaves: simple, 3 lobes (sometimes 5), new growth often red, green on top, grayish below, sinuses toothed; fall - greenish yellow to yellow to red with the cultivars having excellent red and orange fall colors.

Buds: opposite, red to green, blunt and in clusters; flower buds very plump, red and clustered.

Stems: shiny, green-red-brown.

Bark: light gray, smooth.

Flowers: not showy, red, produced in few to many flowered clusters.

Fruits: paired winged seeds ("helicopters"), ¾-1" long, often reddish, ripen in spring.

Habit: young – elliptical; older – loosely oval to rounded

Culture: Full sun to partial shade. Requires an acid soil with adequate moisture. Becomes chlorotic in alkaline soils due to manganese deficiency (not iron). Not very tolerant of air pollution and urban conditions. Growth on this species is moderate and not as fast as silver maple, resulting in a tree with a stronger lateral structure.

Cultivars: Selected for red fall color—'Autumn Flame', 'October Glory' and 'Red Sunset'.

Miscellaneous:

Related species:



'Autumn Flame'



'October Glory'



'Red Sunset'

Credits: Photos from: www.midwestlandscapeplants.org and various other .edu websites unless noted. Text from: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael Dirr; "Tree Identification Characteristics (abridged)" from the University of Illinois Extension; www.midwestlandscapeplants.org; and misc. other sources. This publication may not be sold except to cover the cost of reproduction when used as part of an educational program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.