Acer Xfreemanii - Freeman Maple (Aceraceae)

Acer x freemanii is a hybrid of the red and silver maples (A. rubrum x A. saccharinum) that combines the best of both species: good form and excellent red autumn color from the Red Maple; fast growth and tolerance to adverse climatic and soil conditions from the Silver Maple.

FEATURES

Form



-large tree; reaching a mature height of 40-60' and up to 20-40' wide -upright oval, columnar or pyramidal in youth (depending on the cultivar) developing



several main branches with age

-rapid growth rate; may grow 4 times as fast as Red Maple!

Culture

- -best performance in full sun.
- -prefers rich, well drained soils but it is fairly tolerant to heavy soils and will tolerate dry or wet neutral sites -considered urban tolerant
- -not tolerant of high soil pH, though not as sensitive as Red Maple
- -abundantly available in B&B or bare root

Foliage

- -opposite arrangement
- -simple, 3-5 lobed leaf blades
- -deciduous



-more similar to the Silver Maple than the Red Maple -petioles may be red or green -autumn color yellow or red, vibrant, excellent for most cultivars

Flowers

- -globular clusters of inflorescences in early spring **Fruit**
- -some cultivars are fruitless
- -when present, the fruit is more similar to the Silver Maple than the Red Maple
- -2 joined samaras per stalk, having semi-divergent wings, in pendulous clusters from the stems -maturing to yellow-brown in Apr.-May

Twigs

-brown-red, with red buds in winter

Trunk

-gray bark, smooth and thin in youth, becoming slightly furrowed with age

USAGE

Function

-shade tree, street tree, accent tree

Texture

-medium in foliage and bold when bare

Assets

- -rapid vigorous establishment
- -good form
- -outstanding autumn color
- -urban tolerant; poor soil tolerant

Liabilities

- -shallow root system surfaces with age
- -Verticillium wilt susceptibility

Habitats

- -zones 4-8
- -Hybrid of 2 species, both native to the Eastern and Central U.S. As with both Silver and Red Maples, hardiness of Freeman Maple will vary with seed source.

SELECTIONS

Alternates

-large shade trees; trees with rapid growth under adverse conditions (often used as a shade tree for new homes): *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*, etc.

Cultivars - Variants - Related species

- -new cultivars are constantly appearing; some are listed as cultivars of Red Maple in nursery catalogs. The following are the most common:
- -'Armstrong' A fast-growing, narrow tree with ascending branches often used for street planting. -CelebrationTM ('Celzam')- A compact, pyramidal, seedless tree with red and yellow autumn color. The tree reaches a height and spread of 15' and may be

clipped for use as a hedge.

- -Autumn Blaze® ('Jeffersred') Outstanding autumn color, distinct upright oval form, strong branches and a vigorous growth rate. One of the most popular hybrid Maples in the United States that also sells well in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and France. Has shown it is exceptionally hardy in dry, alkaline sites in Australia. "It's more drought-tolerant than red maple and makes an excellent choice for where you may not be able to grow the species red maple or its many selections," (Ken Cochran, Secrest Arboretum).
 -'Marmo' An upright, oval tree with a strong central
- -'Marmo' An upright, oval tree with a strong central leader. The autumn color is a blend of scarlet and maroon with some green. This seedless tree is reported to have better branch structure and strength than Silver Maple.
- -'Morgan' An extremely vigorous cultivar that was selected at Macdonald College in Quebec. It has good autumn color even in mild climates.
- -Scarlet SentinelTM ('Scarsen') An upright branch pattern makes the tree suitable for use in street lawns or parking areas. The leaves hold up well in summer heat.