Acer ginnala - Amur Maple (Aceraceae)
Synonym = A. tataricum subsp. ginnala

Acer ginnala is a multi-trunked, small tree valued for its small vase-like habit and vibrant autumn foliage. Amur Maple is one of the most adaptable and cold hardy of the small-sized Maples.

FEATURES
Form
- small tree; to 20' tall x 20' wide but often smaller
- upright vased in youth, becoming rounded or spreading with age
- medium growth rate
- the species is sold in either clump (multi-stemmed) or tree (single-leader) form

Culture
- full sun to partial shade
- prefers moist, well-drained soils but will tolerate a wide variety of soil pHs and types
- tolerant of a wide range of adverse conditions (typical of urban sites)
- fibrous root system makes it easy to transplant
- abundantly available

Foliage
- opposite arrangement; 3-lobed, with the basal pair much smaller than the prominent central lobe; each of the lobes serrated and lightly incised; palmate venation
- variable autumn color - bright yellow, orange, or red

Flowers
- pendulous clusters of inflorescences in Apr.-May; fragrant

Fruit
- 2 joined samaras per stalk, having parallel wings
- in pendulous clusters from the stems
- may be a vibrant red in June-July and quite ornamental
- maturing to brown in Oct., winter persistent

Twigs
- gray-brown, thin; branches slightly striated

Trunk
- gray to gray-brown; fairly smooth

USAGE
Function
- foundation, group, border, or specimen small tree
Texture
- medium in foliage and when bare
Assets
- good autumn color
- multi-trunked habit
- can be pruned to "fit" a given site
Liabilities
- potential for Verticillium wilt, a serious fungal disease that causes death of whole branches and sometimes the entire plant
Habitat
- Zones 2 to 7, very cold hardy
- Native to the Orient

SELECTIONS
Alternates
- small trees or large shrubs with good autumn color (e.g. Amelanchier, Fothergilla major, selected Hamamelis, Parrotia persica, etc.)

Cultivars - Variants - Related species
- Acer ginnala 'Compactum' - 8' x 8'; foliage turns red-purple in autumn
- Acer ginnala 'Flame' - flaming red autumn color in Sept.-Oct.; also has red fruits at maturity; some variability exists within the cultivars sold at different nurseries because it has been propagated by seeds rather than cuttings