

Trees That Make your Day

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Swamp Maple. Red Maple. *Acer rubrum* and the variety of cultivars.

What is a Red Maple, except soul-inspiring when it turns color in the fall? The deep, rich reds and the bold statement it makes in a landscape firmly announce fall and the coming of winter. These trees grow fairly rapidly in all but the coldest hardiness zones and in almost all soil types. Pyramidal when young they fill out to an oval shape, depending on the selected cultivar.

Red maples are naturally occurring in low wet sites. Their leaf stem is red in color. They show moderate air pollution tolerance, are one of the first trees to show fall color and are easy to transplant. Their flowers are small, red, but occasionally yellow, dense, hanging clusters that occur in late winter to early spring, usually before leaves. Most display thin, silvery gray bark from youth that will turn darker and break up into long, fine scaly plates with age.



Red maples tolerate occasional flooding and wet soils. They are for used for shade in lawns, parks, campuses, are a medium to large tree at 40' to 70' tall, but can be over 100' tall. They perform well in an urban environment and make a good street tree

Notable cultivars include:

'**Armstrong**' - An upright or fastigate selection that grows to around 60' tall and 15' wide. Lacks consistent orange or red fall color.

'**Autumn Flame**' - Notable for its pleasant rounded habit as a young tree, growing to 60' tall. Good fall color and smaller leaves than normal. May lack the hardiness of other cultivars.

'**Bowhall**' - An upright, pyramidal form that is significantly wider than 'Armstrong' or 'Columnare'. Fall color is yellow-orange with red highlights.

'**Columnare**' - Similar to 'Armstrong', but slower growing and more compact. Has better summer foliage quality and dependable orange-red fall color.

'**Franksred**' (**Red Sunset**®) - Pyramidal to rounded form. Striking red fall color. Earlier color development than 'October Glory' and more cold hardy. Grows to 45 to 50' tall.

'**Northwood**' (**Northwood**®) - A cultivar selected for its fine tolerance of harsh winter conditions. The crown is oval and the branches ascend upwards. Fall color may not be as effective as other selections, and some have suggested that the growth form may become irregular with age.

'**October Glory**' (**October Glory**®) - Develops good red to burgundy fall color and has dark green summer foliage. Colors late in October. May have limitations as far as cold hardiness and winter twig kill susceptibility. Oval shape, 40' to 50' tall.