



Japanese Maple, Pixie

Acer palmatum 'Pixie'

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ● ●

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Description:

A beautiful little accent tree for the garden or smaller home landscape; leaves emerge a dazzling bright red in spring before turning much darker in summer, only to turn fiery scarlet in fall; an ideal dynamic color accent

Ornamental Features

Japanese Maple, Pixie is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It has attractive burgundy deciduous foliage which emerges red in spring. The lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding scarlet in the fall. The rough gray bark and black branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Japanese Maple, Pixie is a deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned in summer after the leaves have fully developed, as it may 'bleed' sap if pruned in late winter or early spring. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Japanese Maple, Pixie is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Japanese Maple, Pixie
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Japanese Maple, Pixie foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

Japanese Maple, Pixie will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree does best in partial shade to shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Japanese Maple, Pixie is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

Special Attributes

Japanese maples generally produce a few to no seeds called samaras, which are commonly referred to as helicopters 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch long, and approximately 1/4 inch wide. Growing in pairs, they start green then mature red during the growing season