Maple, (Red) Red Rocket

Acer rubrum 'Red Rocket'



Maple, (Red) Red Rocket in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Other Names: Swamp Maple, Scarlet Maple

Description:

A choice shade tree for smaller areas, with a narrowly upright habit of growth, that relaxes with age; blazing red fall color with orange highlights, small red flowers line the bare branches in spring; needs acid fertilizer; improved hardiness

Ornamental Features

Maple, (Red) Red Rocket is primarily valued in the landscape for its rigidly columnar form. It features showy clusters of red flowers along the branches in early spring before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage which emerges red in spring. The lobed leaves turn an outstanding red in the fall. The furrowed silver bark and red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.



Maple, (Red) Red Rocket in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Maple, (Red) Red Rocket is a dense deciduous tree with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Maple, (Red) Red Rocket is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Vertical Accent



Maple, (Red) Red Rocket
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Maple, (Red) Red Rocket will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a high canopy of foliage that sits well above the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (2): Rubrum (Red) Maples generally have few to no seeds in the Pacific Northwest Desert with proper watering through the growing season. If it seeds the samaras, commonly known as helicopters for their winged shape. The size of seeds are 1 to 1 1/2 inches long. Clean up is blowing or raking samaras and leaves onto the lawn and mow or bag.