Maple, (Freemani) Firefall

Acer x freemanii 'Firefall'



Maple, (Freemani) Firefall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 50 feet

Spread: 35 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Description:

A silver maple/red maple hybrid with an upright growth habit; a good shade tree for smaller properties, more tolerant of adverse conditions than red maple and an impressive color display starting in the early fall

Ornamental Features

Maple, (Freemani) Firefall is primarily valued in the landscape for its decidedly oval form. It has rich green deciduous foliage. The lobed leaves turn outstanding shades of orange and in the fall. The furrowed gray bark and brick red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Maple, (Freemani) Firefall is a deciduous tree with a shapely oval form. 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, (Freemani) Firefall is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Vertical Accent



Maple, (Freemani) Firefall foliage
Photo courtesy of University of Minnesota

Planting & Growing

Maple, (Freemani) Firefall will grow to be about 50 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 35 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 fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 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 or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

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

Clean Up Rating (2): Firefall Maples have no seeds in the Pacific Northwest Desert with proper watering through the growing season unless it gets very stressed. 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 blow or rake onto the lawn and mow or bag.