



## **Acer rubrum (Red Maple)**

**Height** 50' to 75'

**Spread** 40' to 60'

**Growth rate** Fast

### **Environment**

This plant tolerates drought, occasional wetness, flooding and some salt. Suitable soil is fertile and well-drained. The pH preference is an acidic (less than 6.8) soil.

### **Description**

This maple is suitable for use as a shade tree and makes a very ornamental specimen with the added bonus of adding spring and fall color. *Acer rubrum* is a Native American tree found throughout the eastern United States from the Atlantic Ocean to the prairies, from South Florida to Canada.

Although it is most commonly found on moist bottomlands or in swamps, it also occurs in drier soils.

### **Culture Notes**

It is well suited as a street tree in residential and other suburban areas but the bark is thin and easily damaged by mowers. Trees transplant easily but are not very resistant to decay when injured or pruned improperly. Roots can raise sidewalks but they don't have an aggressive root system so they make a good street tree, although surface roots beneath the canopy can make mowing difficult. Branches sometimes grow upright through the crown forming poor attachments to the trunk. These should be cut back (or removed if they are small in diameter) after planting in the landscape to help prevent branch failure in older trees during storms.

### **Pests and Diseases**

Pests: Mites, aphids and twig borers cause some cosmetic damage to the tree. Nutrient deficiencies can be troublesome and Manganese deficiency is most often the cause of chlorosis on alkaline soil. Considered a minor host for this disease, bacterial leaf scorch causes leaf scorch, premature browning, and gradual decline of trees.

### **Maintain adequate mulch area**

Clear all turf away from beneath the branches and mulch to the drip line, especially on young trees to reduce competition with turf and weeds. This will allow roots to become well established and keep plants healthier. Apply a thinner layer of mulch directly over the root ball but keep it away from the trunk. This allows rainwater, irrigation and air to easily enter the root ball and keeps the trunk dry. Placing mulch against the trunk and applying too thick a layer above the root ball can kill the plant.

### **Tree establishment Specifications**

Choose good quality trees for planting and locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size, since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size. The tree can enhance any landscape with its spring flush of foliage. It can be the centerpiece of your landscape if properly located.

The most common cause of young tree failure is planting too deep. In most instances, the point where the top-most root in the root ball originates from the trunk should be located just above the soil surface.