Acer palmatum ‘Burgundy Lace’
‘Burgundy Lace’ Japanese Maple

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INTRODUCTION

This cultivar of Japanese Maple has a height and spread of about 12 feet (Fig. 1). The multiple trunks are picturesque, grey and show nicely when lit up at night. ‘Burgundy Lace’ Japanese Maple is grown for its purple-red colored leaves, interesting growth habit and fine leaf texture. Leaves are dissected almost to the petiole. The red leaf color is best as the new leaves emerge in the spring and in the fall. Leaves turn almost green during the heat of the summer. Growth habit is more like a large shrub with branches to the ground. This may be the best way to grow this tree to show off its wonderful texture. Be sure to clear all turf away from beneath the branches of these low growing types so the lawn mower will not damage the tree. This compact cultivar makes a wonderful accent for any landscape.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Scientific name: Acer palmatum ‘Burgundy Lace’
Pronunciation: AY-ser pal-MAY-turn
Common name(s): ‘Burgundy Lace’ Japanese Maple
Family: Aceraceae
USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 8 (Fig. 2)
Origin: not native to North America
Uses: Bonsai; container or above-ground planter; near a deck or patio; trainable as a standard; specimen
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

DESCRIPTION

Height: 10 to 15 feet
Spread: 10 to 15 feet
Crown uniformity: symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms
Crown shape: round; vase shape
Crown density: moderate
Growth rate: slow
Texture: fine

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: lobed; serrate
Leaf shape: star-shaped

Figure 1. Young ‘Burgundy Lace’ Japanese Maple.
Leaf venation: palmate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: purple or red
Fall color: copper; orange; red; yellow
Fall characteristic: showy

Flower
Flower color: red
Flower characteristics: inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

Fruit
Fruit shape: elongated
Fruit length: .5 to 1 inch
Fruit covering: dry or hard
Fruit color: red
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem

Trunk and Branches
Trunk/bark/branches: bark is thin and easily damaged from mechanical impact; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; no thorns
Pruning requirement: requires pruning to develop strong structure
Breakage: resistant
Current year twig color: green; reddish
Current year twig thickness: thin

Culture
Light requirement: tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in the shade
Soil tolerances: clay; loam; sand; acidic; well-drained
Drought tolerance: moderate
Aerosol salt tolerance: none
Soil salt tolerance: moderate

Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.
Variegated types of Japanese Maple are a bit more difficult to grow and are subject to leaf scorch. There are many cultivars with a wide variety of leaf shapes and color, growth habits, and sizes: ‘Atropurpureum’ - reddish leaves with five lobes; ‘Bloodgood’ - new foliage bright red, darkening to dark green; ‘Dissectum’ - finely dissected leaves in green or red, 10 to 12 feet tall; ‘Elegans’ - leaves with rose-colored margins when they first unfold; ‘Ornatum’ - foliage is cut and reddish.

**Pests**

Aphids infest maples, usually Norway Maple, and may be numerous at times. High populations can cause leaf drop. Another sign of heavy aphid infestation is honey dew on lower leaves and objects beneath the tree. Aphids are controlled by spraying or they may be left alone. If not sprayed, predatory insects will bring the aphid population under control.

Scales are an occasional problem on maples. Perhaps the most common is cottony maple scale. The insect forms a cottony mass on the lower sides of branches. Scales are controlled with horticultural oil sprays. Scales may also be controlled with well-timed sprays to kill the crawlers.

If borers become a problem it is an indication the tree is not growing well. Controlling borers involves keeping trees healthy. Chemical controls of existing infestations are more difficult. Proper control involves identification of the borer infesting the tree then applying insecticides at the proper time.

**Diseases**

Scorch occurs during periods of high temperatures accompanied by wind. Trees with diseased or inadequate root systems will also show scorching. When trees do not get enough water they scorch. Scorch symptoms are light brown or tan dead areas between leaf veins. The symptoms are on all parts of the tree or only on the side exposed to sun and wind. Scorched due to very dry may be overcome by watering. If scorched is due to an inadequate or diseased root system, watering may have no effect.

Nutrient deficiency symptoms are yellow or yellowish-green leaves with darker green veins. The most commonly deficient nutrient on maple is manganese. Implanting capsules containing a manganese source in the trunk will alleviate the symptoms. Test soil samples to determine if the soil...
pH is too high for best manganese availability. Plants exposed to weed killers may also show similar symptoms.

Tar spot and a variety of leaf spots cause some concern among homeowners but are rarely serious enough for control.