



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

***Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood'¹**

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Introduction

'Bloodgood' Japanese Maple has a round shape with a height and spread of about 20 feet, making it nicely suited to residential landscapes (Fig. 1). Its popularity is due mostly to the leaves which stay red for most of the summer. Leaves turn to greenish red in the hot weather (July in northern Florida) in the southern part of its range. The multiple trunks are muscular-looking, picturesque, grey and show nicely when lighted at night. Fall color is reddish and less striking than other Japanese Maples. The globose canopy shape looks best when it is allowed to branch to the ground. Lower foliage branches can be thinned to display the attractive bark and trunk structure.

General Information

Scientific name: *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood'

Pronunciation: AY-sir pal-MAY-tum

Common name(s): 'Bloodgood' Japanese Maple

Family: *Aceraceae*

Plant type: shrub

USDA hardiness zones: 5B through 8 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: border; near a deck or patio; bonsai; container or above-ground planter; trained as a standard

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

Description

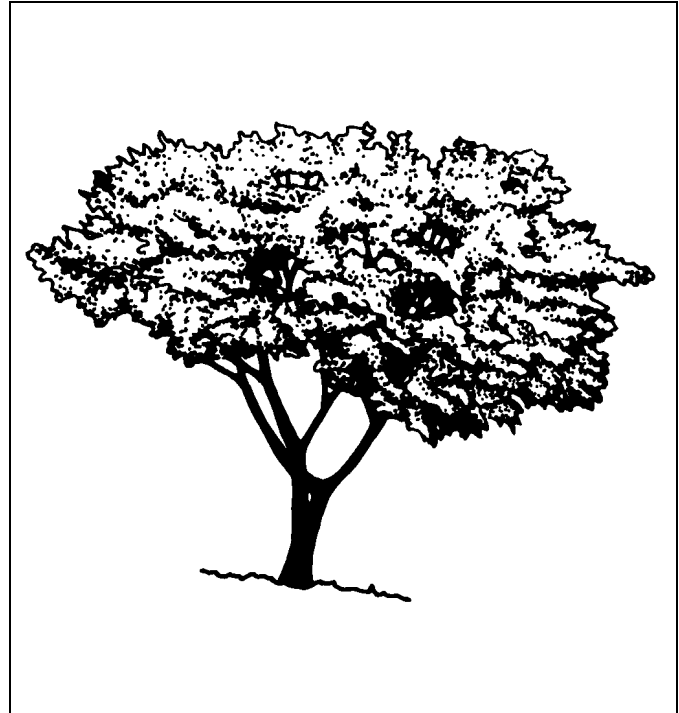


Figure 1. 'Bloodgood' Japanese Maple.

Height: 12 to 20 feet

Spread: 15 to 20 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: symmetrical habit with a regular (or smooth) outline and individuals having more or less identical forms

Growth rate: slow

Texture: medium

1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-9, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October 1999. Please visit the EDIS web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

- Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** serrate; parted
- Leaf shape:** star-shaped
- Leaf venation:** palmate
- Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous
- Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches
- Leaf color:** purple or red
- Fall color:** red
- Fall characteristic:** showy

Flower

- Flower color:** red
- Flower characteristic:** spring flowering

Fruit

- Fruit shape:** elongated
- Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch
- Fruit cover:** dry or hard
- Fruit color:** red
- Fruit characteristic:** showy

Trunk and Branches

- Trunk/bark/branches:** no thorns; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- Current year stem/twig color:** reddish
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

Culture

- Light requirement:** plant grows in the shade; plant grows in full sun
- Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; acidic; clay; loam; sand;
- Drought tolerance:** moderate
- Soil salt tolerances:** moderate
- Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

Other

Roots: usually not a problem

Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

This large shrub or small tree tends to leaf out early, so it may be injured by spring frosts. Leaves can scorch in hot summer weather unless they are in some shade or irrigated during dry weather. More direct sun can be tolerated in the northern part of the range. Be sure drainage is maintained and never allow water to stand around the roots. Japanese Maples grow fine on clay soils as long as the ground is sloped so water does not accumulate in the soil. They respond well to several inches of mulch placed beneath the canopy. Be sure to clear all turf away from beneath the branches of low growing types so the lawn mower will not damage the tree.

This cultivar makes a nice patio or small shade tree for residential lots, and, with pruning to remove drooping branches, provides adequate clearance for pedestrian traffic to pass close to the tree.

Train the trunks and branches so they will not touch each other. Eliminate branches with included (embedded) bark or those which are likely to develop it as soon as possible. This reduces the likelihood of one splitting from the tree later when it has grown to become an important part of the landscape. Remove small twigs to enhance the showy trunk and bark structure. Locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size. It can be the centerpiece of your landscape if properly located. Japanese Maples have a reputation for transplanting from a field nursery poorly, but root pruned plants and those from containers should do well.

Pests and Diseases

Due to poor growth in poorly drained soil, it is often planted on raised beds or on high ground in clay soil. Aphids, scales and borers can be found on the Maples. Scorch occurs during periods of high temperatures accompanied by wind. Trees with diseased or inadequate root systems will also show scorching. Verticillium wilt can kill plants.