



## *Acer palmatum* 'Dissectum Atropurpureum' 'Dissectum Atropurpureum' Japanese Maple<sup>1</sup>

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### INTRODUCTION

This Japanese Maple has a mounded shape with an ultimate height or about 15 feet and a spread to about 20 feet (Fig. 1). The dark red, simple leaves are finely divided into lobes, and the sinuses are so deep that leaves appear to be palmately compound. The slow growth rate makes this nicely suited to residential landscapes. Its popularity is due mostly to the delicate leaves which stay red for most of the summer. Leaves may turn to greenish red in the hot weather 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* 'Dissectum Atropurpureum'

**Pronunciation:** AY-ser pal-MAY-tum

**Common name(s):** 'Dissectum Atropurpureum' 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; specimen

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range



Figure 1. Young 'Dissectum Atropurpureum' Japanese Maple.

### 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; weeping

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** lobed; serrate

**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:** orange

**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; droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; routinely grown with, or trainable to be grown with, multiple trunks; 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

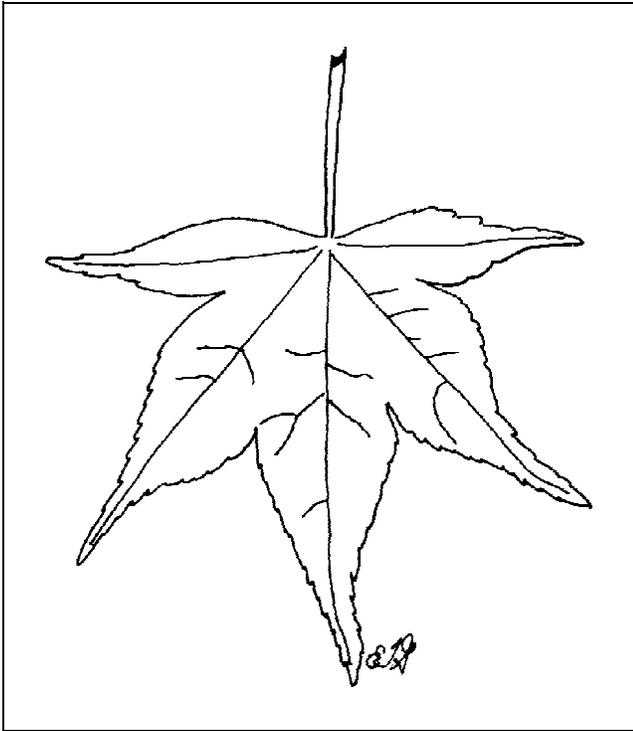
### Culture

**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



**Figure 3.** Foliage of 'Dissectum Atropurpureum' Japanese Maple.

**Soil salt tolerance:** moderate

### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

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

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible

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

### USE AND MANAGEMENT

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 so the lawn mower will not damage the tree.

This cultivar makes a nice specimen for planting in a lawn or low ground cover. 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 a branch splitting from the tree later when it has grown to become an important part of the landscape. 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

Poor growth in poorly drained soil. 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.