

Acer rubrum

Red Maple

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

The Red Maple, which is common throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region, tolerates the widest variety of soil conditions of any North American forest species. Its leaves turn brilliant scarlet, orange, and yellow in the fall, making it a popular ornamental tree.



Tree	Flowers,* Fruit, Trees (Apr/Sep/Nov), Foliage
Height: 40–80 feet	
Spread: 30–50 feet	
Bloom Color: Red	
Characteristics	
Medium-sized deciduous tree with rounded crown	
Opposite , 3- to 5-lobed palmate leaves with serrated margins; glaucous/pubescent to green/ glabrous below	
Polygamodioecious ; red flowers March & April	
Paired, winged fruit (samaras) from April to June	
Red, orange, and yellow fall foliage color	
Smooth bark when young, turning to plate-like scales between vertical ridges when older	
Attributes	
Tolerates wide range of soil , wet soil, and air pollution	
No serious pests or diseases, although verticillium wilt can be fatal; deer seldom to occasionally severely damage, esp. when other food is scarce in winter	
Fast-growing and very cold hardy, although wind and ice may break some branches	
Attractive to wildlife for food and nesting cavities; larval host to ~274 lepidopterans	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
Soil Requirements : Average to rich, well-drained	Excellent Replacement for
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	Acer palmatum - Japanese Maple
Water Requirements : Moist, Wet	Acer platanoides - Norway Maple
Avoid planting near sidewalks or driveways as shallow root systems may cause buckling	Acer pseudoplatanus - Sycamore Maple
Use as a specimen tree for the lawn	Broussonetia papyrifera - Paper Mulberry
Hardiness : USDA Zones 2a–9b	Morus alba - White Mulberry
* Pistillate (female, top left) and staminate (male, top right).	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Mary Free (female flowers, fruit, spring tree), Connecticut College Arboretum and Fairlington Community Center (FCC) and by Elaine Mills, private garden, Arlington and FCC