September Flare™ Sugar Maple
*Acer saccharum* ‘SeptDak’ (Family: Sapindaceae)

**Description:** A very hardy sugar maple seedling selection exhibiting heavy textured tatter resistant foliage, consistent mid-September into early October showy red-orange fall coloration, and excellent winter hardiness in the Northern Plains to -40 °F. This selection originated from a northwest Minnesota native population seed lot and was noted for its early intense fall coloration as a two-year old seedling. Its early coloring capabilities will extend the fall color season.

**Hardiness:** USDA hardiness zones 3b – 6

**Mature Size:** Height: 40 – 50’, Spread: 30 – 40’

**Form (Shape):** Upright oval

**Growth Rate:** Medium

**Foliage:** Deciduous
- **Summer:** Green to dark green, heavier leaf texture typical of northern prairie sources.
- **Autumn:** Fall coloration beginning in the late second to third week of September as an orange-red tint in the upper canopy foliage, spreading to orange-red throughout the tree, and ending with radiant orange-red to red foliage coloration before leaf fall by mid-October.

**Texture:** Medium

**Flower:** Produced in drooping corymbs before the leaves emerge. Short-lived spring interest, not overly showy.

**Fruit:** Two winged samara ripening in fall, not showy.

**Light Preferences:** Full sun exposure.

**Soil Preferences:** Prefers a deep, well-drained, non-droughty soil, will tolerate higher pH levels than the species.

**Propagation:** Summer budding onto northern sugar maple rootstocks.

**Ornamental Attributes:** A very winter hardy selection with good crown density exhibiting excellent summer foliage quality and outstanding fall coloration of an orange-red to red color. Begins fall coloring before other trees in the landscape extend fall color season.

**Landscape Attributes:** Recommended for use as a landscape, public grounds, boulevard (larger), parks, schools, and golf course tree, wherever tree diversity and adaptability to northern conditions are important.

**Comments:** This selection is notable for its early annual display of excellent reliable fall color, which is photoperiod initiated and not frost dependent in this northern climate setting.

**Availability:** Pending