

Amur Maple



Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala*)

General Description

A tall shrub or small tree native to northern Asia. Subject to chlorosis on heavy alkaline soils, and susceptible to 2,4-D injury. Popular as a small, multi-stemmed specimen tree. Outstanding bright reddish fall colors are influenced by soil conditions and the cultivar grown. The largest tree in North Dakota is 22 feet tall with a canopy spread of 30 feet.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Opposite.

Bud Color - Reddish-brown or lighter.

Bud Size - 1/8 inch, imbricate buds.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, 3-lobed, center lobe longest.

Leaf Margins - Doubly-serrate.

Leaf Surface - Glabrous.

Leaf Length - 1½ to 3 inches.

Leaf Width - ¾ to 1½ inches.

Leaf Color - Dark green above, light green beneath.

Bright red fall color is typical.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Borne in small panicles.

Flower Color - Yellowish-white, fragrant.

Fruit Type - Paired samaras (schizocarp).

Fruit Color - Brown to red, variable.

Form

Growth Habit - Multi-stemmed, variably rounded in outline.

Texture - Medium-fine, summer; medium-fine, winter.

Crown Height - 15 to 20 feet.

Crown Width - 15 to 20 feet.

Bark Color - Grayish-brown on older branches.

Root System - Fibrous, shallow.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Adaptable to a variety of soils, except alkaline or poorly-drained soils.

Soil pH - 4.5 to 7.5. Subject to chlorosis on alkaline soils. Does not tolerate salinity.

Windbreak Suitability Group - Groups 1, 3, 5.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 2.

Water

Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Moderately drought tolerant.

Light

Full sun to partial shade.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Tall shrub or small tree for farmstead windbreaks, riparian plantings, and highway beautification.

Wildlife

Browsed by deer and rabbits. Seeds eaten by squirrels. Fair cover for songbirds.

Agroforestry Products

Food - Native maples used for sugary sap.

Medicinal - Astringent properties, and some *Acer* species are used in cancer research.

Urban/Recreational

Useful in small landscapes, borders, and masses.

Cultivated Varieties

Compact Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala* 'Compactum', syn. *A. ginnala* 'Bailey Compact')

Embers Amur Maple (*A. ginnala* 'Embers') - Produce showy red samaras in addition to red fall leaf color.

Flame Amur Maple (*A. ginnala* 'Flame')

Red Wing Amur Maple (*A. ginnala* 'Red Wing') - Produce showy red samaras in addition to red fall leaf color.

Related Species

Tatarian Maple (*A. tataricum*)

Hybrid Maple (*A. ginnala* x *A. tataricum*) - See Tatarian Maple.

Pests

Sensitive to phenoxy herbicides. Iron chlorosis commonly occurs in alkaline or poorly drained soils. Leaf spot sometimes occurs. Extracts of *Acer* species have been toxic to insect pests.