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Dwarf Red Pygmy Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Red Pygmy'

Dwarf Red Pygmy Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 7 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Group/Class: Linearilobum

Description:

The narrow bamboo-like leaves of this choice dwarf variety are deep green with tinges of red during summer, turning yellow-gold in fall; a fine textural accent for the garden, for containers or bonsai

Dwarf Red Pygmy Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Dwarf Red Pygmy Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It has attractive dark green foliage edged in red which emerges red in spring. The small deeply cut ferny palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of yellow and gold in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Dwarf Red Pygmy Japanese Maple is a dense deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a more or less rounded form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned in summer after the leaves have fully developed, as it may 'bleed' sap if pruned in late winter or early spring. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Dwarf Red Pygmy Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Dwarf Red Pygmy Japanese Maple will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 7 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Dwarf Red Pygmy Japanese Maple is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.