

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

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## Introduction

'Bloodgood' Japanese maple has a round shape with a height and spread of about 20 feet, making it nicely suited to residential landscapes (Figure 1). Its popularity is due mostly to the leaves, which stay red for most of the summer. Leaves turn greenish red during 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* 'Bloodgood'

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

**Common name(s):** 'Bloodgood' Japanese maple

**Family:** *Aceraceae*

**Plant type:** shrub

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5B through 8 (Figure 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** year round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** border; near a deck or patio; bonsai; container or above-ground planter; trained as a standard

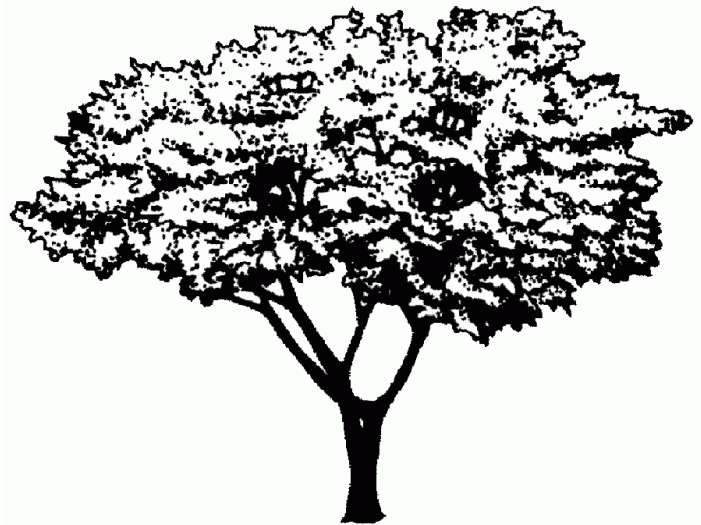


Figure 1. 'Bloodgood' Japanese maple.

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

## Description

**Height:** 12 to 20 feet

**Spread:** 15 to 20 feet

**Plant habit:** round

**Plant density:** symmetrical habit with a regular (or smooth) outline and individuals having more or less identical forms

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

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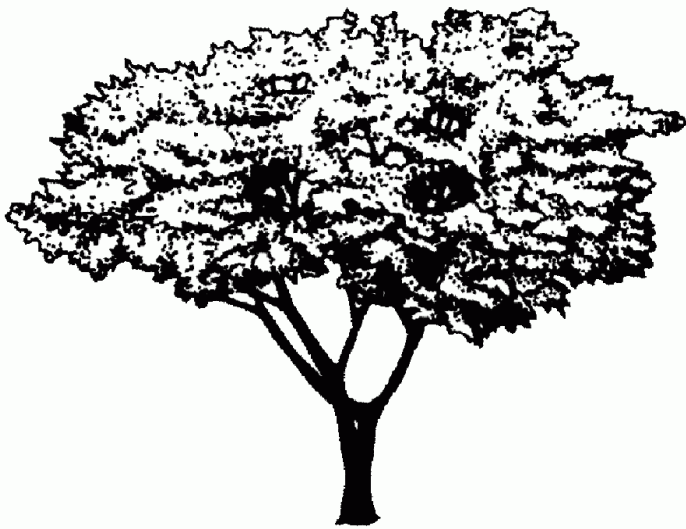


Figure 1. 'Bloodgood' Japanese maple.

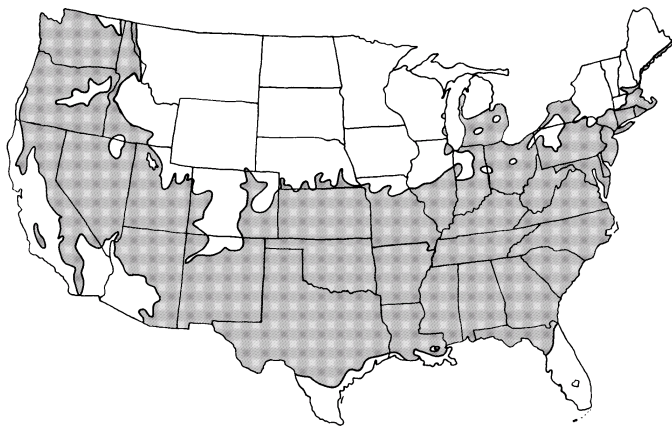


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrate; parted

**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:** red

**Fall characteristic:** showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** red

**Flower characteristic:** spring flowering

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** elongated

**Fruit length:** 0.5 to 1 inch

**Fruit cover:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** red

**Fruit characteristic:** showy

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** no thorns; typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** reddish

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in the shade; plant grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; acidic; clay; loam; sand

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerance:** moderate

**Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

## Other

**Roots:** usually not a problem

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

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

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

## Use and Management

This large shrub or small tree tends to leaf out early, so it may be injured by spring frosts. 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 well on clay soils as long as the ground is sloped so that 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 of low-growing types so lawn mowers will not damage the tree.

This cultivar makes a nice patio or small shade tree for residential lots and, with pruning to remove drooping branches, provides adequate clearance for pedestrian traffic to pass close to the tree.

Train the trunks and branches so that they will not touch each other. Eliminate branches with included (embedded) bark or those that 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. Remove small twigs to enhance the showy

trunk and bark structure. Locate the tree properly; take into account the ultimate size because the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size. It can be the centerpiece of your landscape if it is 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**

Due to poor growth in poorly drained soil, Japanese maples are 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.