

# *Acer japonicum* 'Acontifolium': 'Acontifolium' Fullmoon Maple<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman, Dennis G. Watson, Ryan W. Klein, and Deborah R. Hilbert<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

Full moon maple is a small, deciduous tree which reaches 10 to 15 feet in height and width, creating an irregular, rounded silhouette. It fits well into the oriental garden due to the exotic silhouette. This cultivar is exceptionally cold hardy, having survived temperatures of -25°F below zero. The deeply divided, soft green leaves have 9 to 11 lobes and are delicately displayed on thin, drooping branches. Leaves take on a beautiful yellow to red coloration in the fall before dropping, making this small, dense plant really stand out in the landscape. Fall color has been described as exceptional. The hanging clusters of purple/red flowers appear in late spring and are followed by the production of winged seeds.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Acer japonicum*

**Pronunciation:** AY-ser juh-PAWN-ih-kum

**Common name(s):** 'Acontifolium' Fullmoon maple, fernleaf maple

**Family:** *Aceraceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5A through 7B (Figure 2)

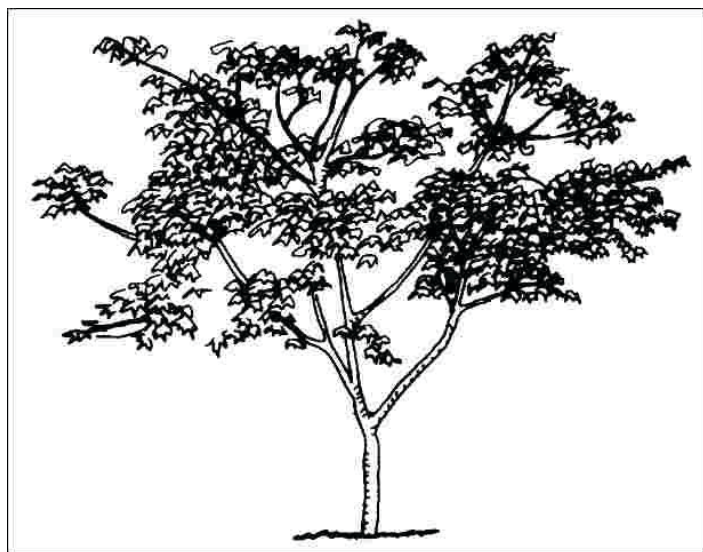


Figure 1. Young *Acer japonicum* 'Acontifolium': 'Acontifolium' fullmoon maple.

Credits: UF/IFAS

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** not assessed/incomplete assessment

**Uses:** specimen; deck or patio; container or planter; trained as a standard; Bonsai

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor emeritus, Department of Environmental Horticulture; Dennis G. Watson, former associate professor, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Ryan W. Klein, assistant professor, arboriculture, Department of Environmental Horticulture; and Deborah R. Hilbert, UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center; UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

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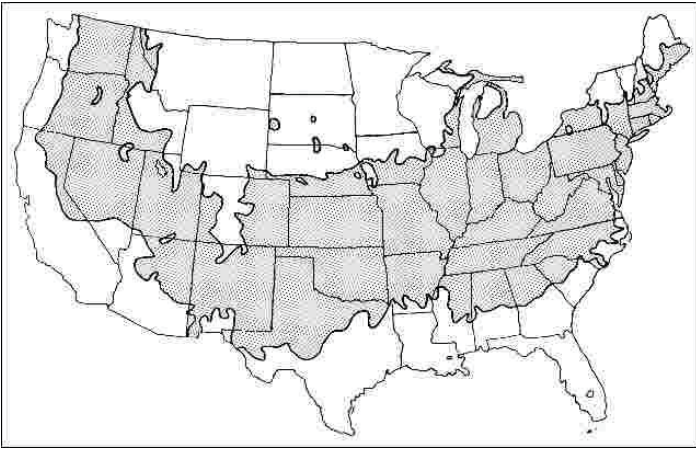


Figure 2. Range.  
Credits: UF/IFAS

## Description

**Height:** 10 to 15 feet

**Spread:** 6 to 10 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** vase, round

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** slow

**Texture:** medium

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite (Figure 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** parted, incised, lobed

**Leaf shape:** star-shaped

**Leaf venation:** palmate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** red

**Fall characteristic:** showy

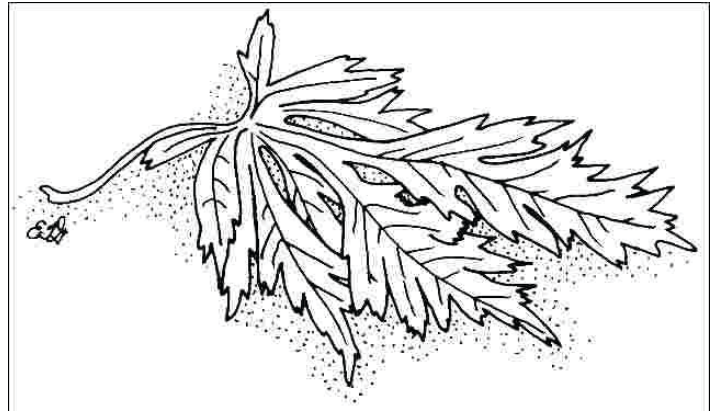


Figure 3. Foliage  
Credits: UF/IFAS

## Flower

**Flower color:** red

**Flower characteristics:** showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** elongated, oval

**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** green

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches droop; not showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** little required

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** green

**Current year twig thickness:** thin, medium

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

## Culture

**Light requirement:** partial sun or partial shade, shade tolerant

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** none

## Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** yes

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** susceptible

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

## Use and Management

This maple would be at home in the residential landscape as well as the commercial setting. Planted near the patio or deck, it would generate many comments from friends and other visitors. It is probably best used as a specimen, planted to attract attention to an area. It should live for at least 20 years. Nice specimens can be viewed at arboreta, but few nurseries currently offer this cultivar for sale. This may change as nursery operators and homeowners discover the tree.

Fullmoon maple should be grown in full sun or partial shade. Where the sunlight is intense, the tree will benefit from having its roots shaded to help keep the soil cool.

## Pests

No pests are of major concern.

## Diseases

This maple is susceptible to verticillium wilt.