Acer capillipes
Red snake-bark maple, Kyushu Maple

Acer capillipes (Red snake-bark maple, Kyushu Maple) is native to the mountain forests of Japan where it can be found growing alongside, amongst others, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum, Trochodendron aralioides* and *Zanthoxylum piperitum*. Japanese professionally trained botanist Surawa Tschonoski found the maple for Russian botanist Carl Maximowicz who described the species in 1867. In its native range, *Acer capillipes* grows up to a height of fifteen metres; in Europe, the tree reaches a maximum height of between six and nine metres with a semi-open, broadly vase-shaped crown.

The Dutch name for the red snake-bark maple ('red striped maple') comes from the characteristic white stripes on the green, purplish coated bark and the equally striking young red shoots. These shoots give young trees a very red appearance. On older branches the distinctive white stripes are less conspicuous. In spring, the 3-5 lobed leaves emerge red, changing to dark green with red veins and notably red petioles in summer. The characteristic tree is magnificent all year round but reaches a peak in the autumn when - depending on the site - the leaves put on a dazzling display in various shades of orange-red to yellow. In May, *Acer capillipes* bears male and female greenish white flowers in long, pendulous racemes. They are particularly loved by bees, butterflies and other insects. After flowering, pink to red-brown winged fruits appear with slender, fine-haired stems, which explains its Latin name *capillipes*.

Acer capillipes is ideal for parks, (large) gardens and central reservations. It enjoys a lightly acid, fertile soil which is moist but well-drained. As a woodland tree, the red snake-bark maple does not like full sun but prefers a bright location with sufficient shade for its stems. *Acer capillipes* is sensitive to dry and warm micro-climates as well as competition from weeds and grass at its roots. An application of mulch is, therefore, recommended.

SEASONAL COLOURS

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem**: multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, small garden, cemetery | **Pavement**: none, open | **Planting concepts**: Eco planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 7 - 9 m | **Width**: 4 - 5 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 7B

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, butterflies, nectar value 5, pollen value 5

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, striking, pendulous | **Flower colour**: white-green | **Flowering period**: May - May | **Leaf colour**: buds red-violet, green | **Leaves**: deciduous, palmate, opposite, polished, laciniate | **Autumn colour**: yellow, yellow-orange, orange-red, red | **Fruits**: striking, winged | **Fruit colour**: red-brown | **Bark colour**: white, green | **Bark**: striped | **Twig colour**: red | **Twigs**: striped | **Root system**: shallow, slightly branched, highly branched