

Acer buergerianum
Trident Maple, Three-toothed Maple



Trident maple (*Acer buergerianum*) originates from the temperate forests and mountain slopes of China, Taiwan, and Japan. This medium-sized tree was introduced to Europe in the nineteenth century and named by the Dutch botanist Friedrich Miquel after the German botanist Heinrich Bürger. The tree reaches a height of eight to fifteen meters, with a crown six to ten meters wide. The crown shape is ovoid to round, compact and regularly structured, with a semi-open crown structure. In nature, *Acer buergerianum* mainly occurs as multi-stemmed, but it can also be easily cultivated as an avenue tree.

The glossy dark green leaves of the trident maple are variable, but usually trilobed with three leaf veins and a strikingly smooth to slightly wavy leaf margin. In autumn, they change color - depending on the location - spectacularly to various shades of yellow, orange, red, and sometimes purple. Flowering occurs around April, May, with small yellowish-green flowers in upright clusters, simultaneously with the emergence of the bronze-colored leaves. From these, the typical winged maple fruits (samaras) develop, which are relatively small and set at a sharp angle. The bark of young trees is smooth and grey-brown, but already at a young age, it develops a decorative pattern of exfoliating strips, revealing an orange underbark. The twigs are slender, olive-brown to green with lenticels.

This versatile species can be used for parks and gardens. And because *Acer buergerianum* tolerates heat, drought, paving, and urban conditions well, the tree can also be planted in streets and squares. The tree grows best on well-drained, moderately nutrient-rich soils, preferably slightly acidic to neutral, but is also relatively tolerant of different soil types. The trident maple prefers a location in full sun to light partial shade, but in sunny locations and on acidic soils, it shows the most intense autumn coloration.

SEASONAL COLOURS

jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

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

USE

Location: avenue, square, park, central reservation, in containers, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement**: none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts**: urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded, egg-shaped, narrow egg-shaped, wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 8 - 15 m | **Width**: 6 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6B - 9A

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind, slightly tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, corymbose, standing | **Flower colour**: yellow-green | **Flowering period**: April - May | **Leaf colour**: buds bronze, green, underside grey-green | **Leaves**: deciduous, polished, lobate | **Autumn colour**: yellow-orange, orange-red, red-violet | **Fruits**: striking, winged, small | **Fruit colour**: brown-green | **Bark colour**: orange, grey-brown | **Bark**: peeling | **Twig colour**: grey-brown, green | **Twigs**: bare, with lenticels | **Root system**: shallow, slightly branched

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