

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

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

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

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