

Acer x *freemanii* 'Armstrong'
Armstrong Freeman's Maple



Acer × *freemanii* 'Armstrong' (Armstrong Freeman's Maple) is a selection of the hybrid tree species *Acer* × *freemanii*, which in turn originated from a cross between *Acer rubrum* and *Acer saccharinum*. This cultivar was released in the United States in 1951 by Scanlon Nurseries, Ohio, under the name 'Armstrong', after its discoverer Newton Armstrong. The reason for the selection was its striking narrowness when mature: at a height of twelve to fifteen meters, it is only five to seven meters wide. Especially at a young age, the crown is narrow and upright, but over the years it can spread out more into an egg-shaped to oval habit, with the finer side branches providing a regular and compact appearance.

The foliage resembles that of both parent species: with five lobes, a green upper side and a gray underside. In autumn, the leaves turn yellow to orange-red. Flowering is relatively inconspicuous and occurs in early spring, with small, orange-red flower clusters. Cultivar 'Armstrong' does not bear fruit. In young trees, the bark is smooth and gray to silvery, later developing light grooves. The twigs are sturdy and grow vertically. At a young age, they are reddish-brown, but as the tree ages, this develops into a grayish-brown.

Acer × *freemanii* 'Armstrong' is ideal as an avenue or street tree, or as a solitary tree in parks and gardens. This is thanks to its narrow growth habit, winter hardiness, and good branching. Armstrong Freeman's Maple grows well in a variety of soil types: from moist to moderately dry and well-drained soils - and prefers a location in full sun to light shade. Cultivar 'Armstrong' is a very robust maple that often grows better than other maples, especially in difficult urban and other paved environments. This, combined with its compact shape, makes Armstrong Freeman's Maple a valuable choice for modern urban green projects and a spectacular autumn herald for avenues with limited space.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: standard trees

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

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: columnar | **Crown structure**: dense | **Height**: 10 - 15 m | **Width**: 5 - 7 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 4B - 9B

ASPECTS
Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, butterflies | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: corymbose, striking, pendulous | **Flower colour**: orange-red | **Flowering period**: March - April | **Leaf colour**: green, underside grey | **Leaves**: deciduous, palmate, big, opposite, laciniate, serrate | **Autumn colour**: orange-red | **Fruits**: no fruit | **Bark colour**: grey | **Bark**: slightly furrowed | **Twig colour**: grey-brown | **Twigs**: bare | **Root system**: deep, shallow, extensive, slightly branched, fine roots

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