

Acer x freemanii 'Elegant'

Elegant Freeman's Maple



Acer x freemanii 'Elegant' (Elegant Freeman's Maple) was initially considered an unrivalled clone of *Acer saccharinum*, and was released in 1969 under the cultivar name "Elegant" by tree nursery De Bie van Aalst in Zundert, the Netherlands. The tree also resembles *Acer saccharinum* most closely, but remains more compact. Later, Dutch dendrologist Grootendorst determined that the cultivar belongs to the hybrid species *Acer x freemanii*. 'Elegant' grows to a height of about twenty metres and a width of eight to twelve metres. The crown is initially narrow and upright, but develops over the years into a broad and dense vase shape, with heavy, sloping branches on a heavy trunk.

The leaves of *Acer x freemanii* 'Elegant' are relatively small and palmate with three to five lobes, green on top and grey underneath. In autumn, the foliage turns a beautiful orange to red. Around March or April, the Elegant Freeman's Maple blooms with greenish-yellow, later red-coloured flower clusters. An important advantage for certain specific applications is that *Acer x freemanii* 'Elegant' does not bear fruit. When young, the bark is smooth and silvery grey, and the twigs are sturdy, with clearly visible lenticels.

In urban environments, *Acer x freemanii* 'Elegant' makes an excellent avenue and street tree. However, this selection really shines as a beautiful solitary tree in parks and larger gardens. With its compact, regular crown and tolerance for paving and urban conditions, the 'Elegant' tree is ideal for locations where space is limited. An important advantage over *Acer saccharinum* is that this cultivar is much less prone to branch breakage and thrives in paving. As long as the soil is well-drained, the tree tolerates various soil types. *Acer x freemanii* 'Elegant' grows best in moderately dry to moist soil. For best growth and autumn colour, a spacious location in full sun to light partial shade is recommended.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, climate trees, shade trees

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 8 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 4A - 8B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly 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, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: corymbose, discrete | **Flower colour:** red, yellow-green | **Flowering period:** March - April | **Leaf colour:** green, underside grey | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, big, thick, opposite, polished, lacinate, serrate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** red | **Fruits:** no fruit | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** slightly furrowed | **Twig colour:** red | **Twigs:** bare | **Root system:** deep, shallow, fine roots