Acer x *freemanii*
Freeman's Maple

Acer × *freemanii* (Freeman's maple) is a naturally occurring hybrid tree species, created from a cross between *Acer rubrum* (red maple) and *Acer saccharinum* (silver maple). The species occurs in eastern North America, where both parents grow in overlapping areas. The name 'freemanii' honors Oliver M. Freeman of the U.S. National Arboretum, who achieved the first controlled cross in 1933. *Acer* × *freemanii* can reach a height of twelve to fifteen meters when mature and grows to a width of eight to twelve meters, depending on its location. The crown develops from a narrow, upright silhouette in its youth to an oval to broad crown shape as it ages.

The foliage of *Acer* × *freemanii* consists of opposite, palmate, five-lobed leaves, which are intermediate in shape between those of the parent species and emerge reddish in spring. The upper side is green, the underside gray-green. In autumn, the leaves often change color spectacularly to varying shades of orange-red to scarlet. The flowers appear in early spring and are relatively inconspicuous. The fruits are known as winged samaras, typical of maple trees. The bark is initially smooth and silver-gray, later becoming coarse with vertical grooves. The twigs are sturdy and well-branched, but due to vigorous growth and sharp branch angles, there is a risk of ingrowing branches.

Acer × *freemanii* is often used as a tree for avenues or streets in urban environments and is also popular as a shade tree for parks or green areas. The hybrid combines the fast growth, tolerance for calcareous soils, and temporary drought resistance of the silver maple with the stronger branch structure and fantastic autumn color of the red maple, making it particularly suitable for challenging locations. The tree is not demanding in terms of soil: it tolerates both moist and moderately dry, well-drained soils and can thrive in full sun to light partial shade.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, shade trees

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: ovoid | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 12 - 15 m | **Width**: 8 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 4A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant 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, wet | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

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

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