Acer rubrum
Red Maple, Water Maple, Scarlet Maple, Swamp Maple, Soft maple

Acer rubrum (red maple) is a deciduous tree native to eastern and central North America, where it grows from Canada to Florida, making it one of the most widely distributed tree species. This maple grows rapidly and is often found in its natural environment along rivers, in swamps and in moist forests, but the species also occurs in dry locations. In cultivation, *Acer rubrum* usually reaches a height of fifteen to twenty metres and, depending on the location and soil conditions, a width of ten to fourteen metres. At a young age, the crown shape is pyramidal to oval, later developing into a more broadly oval to round shape, with fairly dense branching and a straight trunk.

The leaves of *Acer rubrum* have a bright green upper side and a blue-green underside, are palmate and consist of three to five lobes. In autumn, the foliage turns a striking bright red, orange or yellow, depending on soil type and climatic conditions. Around March or April, before the leaves appear, the tree blooms with small, reddish flower clusters that attract many insects. After flowering, winged fruits, samaras, appear, which often fall off again in May. The bark is grey and smooth when young, later becoming more grey-brown and slightly grooved. The twigs are reddish-brown and are particularly noticeable in winter.

The red maple is often used as an avenue, park or solitary tree. *Acer rubrum* grows best in moist, slightly acidic to neutral, well-drained soil. It does not tolerate calcareous or compacted soil well, which can lead to stunted growth and chlorosis. The species is very hardy and prefers a location in full sun or partial shade. Due to its adaptability to moist conditions, *Acer rubrum* is also used in rainwater buffers and along wadis.

TYPES OF PLANTING
Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, shade trees, characteristic trees

USE
Location: avenue, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, countryside | **Pavement**: none, open | **Planting concepts**: Climate planting, Eco planting, Landscape planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS
Crown shape: rounded, pyramidal | **Crown structure**: dense | **Height**: 15 - 20 m | **Width**: 10 - 14 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 4A - 9B

ASPECTS
Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, butterflies, birds, small mammals, nectar value 5, pollen value 5 | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN
Flowers: raceme, striking, pendulous | **Flower colour**: red | **Flowering period**: March - April | **Leaf colour**: bright green, underside blue-green | **Leaves**: deciduous, palmate, opposite, polished, serrate | **Autumn colour**: yellow, orange, scarlet | **Fruits**: striking, winged | **Fruit colour**: red | **Bark colour**: grey | **Bark**: furrowed | **Twig colour**: red-brown | **Twigs**: bare, with lenticels | **Root system**: deep, fine roots, central root

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