

Acer rufinerve

Redvein Maple, Honshū Maple, Grey-budded snake-bark-maple



Acer rufinerve (Redvein Maple, Honshū Maple, Grey-budded snake-bark-maple) was brought from Japan in 1881 for British tree nursery James Veitch & Sons by English plant collector Charles Maries. It is the most common snake-bark maple in cultivation. In its region of origin, the tree grows in the shrub layer on mountain slopes between, amongst others, *Quercus mongolica*, *Acer japonicum*, *Prunus sargentii* and *Cornus controversa*. In the wild *Acer rufinerve* attains a height of twelve to fourteen metres; in cultivation this is limited to between seven and twelve metres with a tall and narrow, semi-open oval crown which develops a six-metre-wide vase-shaped habit with maturity.

The trunk of the grey-budded snake-bark maple is smooth and light green to grey-green with white stripes, and unlike the other snake-bark maples it has no discernible red. Also, as it matures, the stripes on the bark of *Acer rufinerve* remain clearly visible. The 3-5 lobed leaf is dark green with a light green underside into autumn when the leaves change to various shades of yellow-orange, orange-red and red-violet. In May *Acer rufinerve* comes into bloom with upright bright yellow-green racemes which are easily found by bees and butterflies. After flowering yellow-green, winged fruits appear in clusters which change to brown in the autumn.

The characteristic *Acer rufinerve* occurs in the wild on reasonably dry slopes and can, therefore, be planted on quite dry soils provided the site is cool and shaded and the soil is moderately rich in nutrients/rich in nutrients. *Acer rufinerve* is best suited to parks, gardens and central reservations and forms one of the most decorative snake-bark maples for year-round interest.

SEASONAL COLOURS



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 | **Planting concepts:** shade-tolerant

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** open | **Height:** 7 - 12 m | **Width:** 5 - 6 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 8B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade, shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, standing | **Flower colour:** light brown, yellow-green | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** dark green, underside pale green | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, opposite, serrate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange, orange-red, red-violet | **Fruits:** winged, capsules | **Fruit colour:** yellow-green | **Bark colour:** white, green | **Bark:** smooth, later on rough, striped | **Twig colour:** olive green | **Root system:** shallow, slightly branched, fine roots