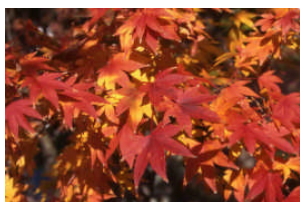


e - articles

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Acer - Maple Magic



Maples include low, spreading shrubs, ornamental small trees and forest giants. "Acer" (a'-sir) the original Latin word for maple, includes 200 Northern Hemisphere species.

Larger North American and European maples are valued timber trees. They are imposing icons in the landscape, countryside and deciduous forest. Chinese and Japanese maples are alpine and forest Asian natives somewhat smaller, graceful and more decorative.

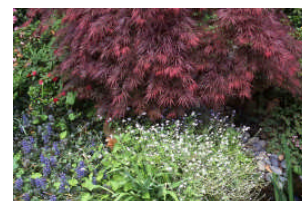
Acer saccharum, the Sugar Maple, produces delicious maple sugar. A similar species with crimson autumn foliage adorns the Canadian flag. One European superstition still widely practised assumes that passing a child through the branches of a maple tree insures long life.



Maples are usually a deciduous species, occasionally partially evergreen, with attractive, diverse foliage usually in a palmate pattern often producing dramatic colour changes in spring and autumn.

Many have ornamental bark and stems and very beautiful leaves in a variety of colours. Maples include some of the world's most beloved ornamental and shade trees.

Dwarf, slower growing, 2m *acer p. dissectum* has finely cut foliage that makes it an attractive accent in tubs, near ponds and streams, as a focal point in the shrub border or woodland garden and as a bonsai. It is well suited to the smaller landscape or large container garden.



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