Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

Davidsonville, MD | Severna Park, MD | Smyrna, MD
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Paperbark Maple

Acer griseum



Paperbark Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Description:

This small ornamental tree is renowned for its exfoliating (peeling) bark in cinnamon red, pink and tan, along wth good fall color; an extremely high value accent tree for the winter landscape

Ornamental Features

Paperbark Maple has dark green deciduous foliage on a tree with an oval habit of growth. The compound leaves turn outstanding shades of orange and antique red in the fall. The peeling antique red bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Paperbark Maple is a multi-stemmed deciduous tree with a shapely oval form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned in summer after the leaves have fully developed, as it may 'bleed' sap if pruned in late winter or early spring. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Paperbark Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade



Paperbark Maple bark
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Paperbark Maple will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 6 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.



Paperbark Maple in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder