Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

Davidsonville, MD | Severna Park, MD | Smyrna, MD
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Waterfall Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Waterfall'



Waterfall Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Description:

A superb landscape choice valued for its finely-textured cutleaf foliage and shapely horizontally-cascading habit of growth; an excellent refined choice for small home landscapes, makes a great accent in the shrub border

Ornamental Features

Waterfall Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its highly ornamental weeping form. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The deeply cut ferny palmate leaves turn outstanding shades of gold, orange and red in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Waterfall Japanese Maple is an open deciduous shrub with a strong central leader and a rounded form and gracefully weeping branches. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, 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.

Waterfall Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Waterfall Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Waterfall Japanese Maple will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.



Waterfall Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Waterfall Japanese Maple makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.