Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

Davidsonville, MD | Severna Park, MD | Smyrna, MD
(410) 798-5000 | HomesteadGardens.com

Coral Bark Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Sango Kaku'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Description:

A very popular tree that grows vigorously when young to a lovely vase shape; its most outstanding feature is the lovely coral bark on the younger branches in the winter and colorful foliage throughout the rest of the year from yellow-green to gold



Coral Bark Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Coral Bark Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It features subtle corymbs of red flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring before the leaves. It has attractive lime green deciduous foliage which emerges coral-pink in spring. The palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of gold, orange and red in the fall. The rough gray bark and coral-pink branches are extremely showy and add significant winter interest.



Coral Bark Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Coral Bark Japanese Maple is an open deciduous tree with a more or less rounded 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.

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Coral Bark Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Mass Planting

Planting & Growing

Coral Bark Japanese Maple will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium 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. 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.



Coral Bark Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder