Red Maple
(*Acer rubrum*)

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**Summary:**
- **Foliage:** Deciduous broadleaf
- **Height:** 60 feet
- **Spread:** 60 feet
- **Shape:** Oval to round

Red maple is a fast-growing medium/large shade tree species with a spectacular fall foliage color. It has showy red flowers in the spring. There are many cultivars of this species that vary in form, tolerance of wet conditions, and fall color.

**Plant Needs:**
- **Zone:** 3 to 10
- **Light:** Partial shade to full sun
- **Moisture:** Wet, moist, or dry
- **Soil Type:** Sandy, loam, or clay
- **pH Range:** 3.7 to 7.0

**Functions:**
- Suggested uses for this plant include shade, street tree, specimen plant, and naturalizing.

**Planting Notes:**
- Tolerates wide range of soils, except those with a very high pH.

**Care:**
- Prune dead and/or damaged wood any time of year.

**Problems:**
- Red maple is somewhat subject to storm damage.
- Iron chlorosis (an iron deficiency) is a frequent problem in soils with a high pH.
- Surface roots in lawn areas can make mowing difficult.

**Alternatives:**
- Consult local garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.
- **Cultivars of *Acer rubrum***:
  - Red Sunset® has excellent red to orange fall color and round shape.
  - October Glory® has a round shape, red fall color, and tends to retain its leaves until later in the fall.
  - ‘Autumn Flame’ has an early display of red fall color and a round shape.

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Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) is a large fast-growing species that is not suited to most landscapes since it is prone to several pests and is relatively weak wooded. It has a fair fall foliage color at best. This species is suitable for waterside plantings since it tolerates wet soils but one must recognize its shortcomings.
Comments:
Red maple has a profusion of small, red flowers in early spring. This species’ fast-growing nature, flower and fall foliage color display make it a desirable landscape species especially for someone who does not want to wait a long time to have a medium sized tree. One should investigate the characteristics of available cultivars before purchasing a plant.

This material was developed by Carol Ness as part of the Interactive Design and Development Project funded by the Kellogg Foundation.