

Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset': 'Red Sunset' Red Maple¹

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson²

Introduction

'Red Sunset' and 'October Glory' have proven to be the best cultivars of red maple for the South. 'Red Sunset' has strong wood and is a vigorous, fast-grower, reaching a height of 50 feet with a spread of 25 to 35 feet. Trees are often seen shorter in the southern part of its range unless located on a wet site. This tree is preferred over red maple, silver maple, or boxelder when a fast-growing maple is needed, and will take on a pyramidal or oval silhouette. The newly emerging red flowers and fruits signal that spring has come. They appear in December and January in Florida, later in the northern part of its range. Leaves retain an attractive high gloss throughout the growing season. The seeds of 'Red Sunset' red maple are quite popular with squirrels and birds.

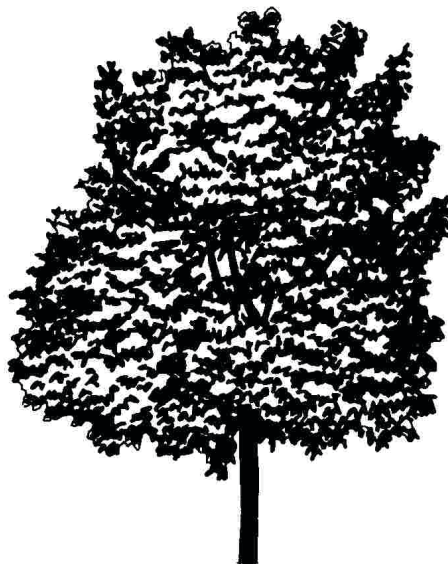


Figure 1. Middle-aged *Acer rubrum* 'Red Sunset': 'Red Sunset' Red Maple

General Information

Scientific name: *Acer rubrum*

Pronunciation: AY-ser ROO-brum

Common name(s): 'Red Sunset' red maple

Family: *Aceraceae*

USDA hardiness zones: 4B through 8B (Fig. 2)

Origin: native to North America

Invasive potential: little invasive potential

Uses: reclamation; highway median; screen; shade; street without sidewalk; deck or patio; tree lawn 4–6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; specimen; bonsai

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range



Figure 2. Range

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, former associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.