

Acer capillipes

Red snake-bark maple, Kyushu Maple



Acer capillipes (Red snake-bark maple, Kyushu Maple) is native to the mountain forests of Japan where it can be found growing alongside, amongst others, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, *Trochodendron aralioides* and *Zanthoxylum piperitum*. Japanese professionally trained botanist Surawa Tschonoski found the maple for Russian botanist Carl Maximowicz who described the species in 1867. In its native range, *Acer capillipes* grows up to a height of fifteen metres; in Europe, the tree reaches a maximum height of between six and nine metres with a semi-open, broadly vase-shaped crown.

The Dutch name for the red snake-bark maple ('red striped maple') comes from the characteristic white stripes on the green, purplish coated bark and the equally striking young red shoots. These shoots give young trees a very red appearance. On older branches the distinctive white stripes are less conspicuous. In spring, the 3-5 lobed leaves emerge red, changing to dark green with red veins and notably red petioles in summer. The characteristic tree is magnificent all year round but reaches a peak in the autumn when - depending on the site - the leaves put on a dazzling display in various shades of orange-red to yellow. In May, *Acer capillipes* bears male and female greenish white flowers in long, pendulous racemes. They are particularly loved by bees, butterflies and other insects. After flowering, pink to red-brown winged fruits appear with slender, fine-haired stems, which explains its Latin name *capillipes*.

Acer capillipes is ideal for parks, (large) gardens and central reservations. It enjoys a lightly acid, fertile soil which is moist but well-drained. As a woodland tree, the red snake-bark maple does not like full sun but prefers a bright location with sufficient shade for its stems. *Acer capillipes* is sensitive to dry and warm micro-climates as well as competition from weeds and grass at its roots. An application of mulch is, therefore, recommended.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, small garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open | **Planting concepts:** Eco planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 7 - 9 m | **Width:** 4 - 5 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 7B

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, nectar value 5, pollen value 5 | **Extreme environments:** tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, striking, pendulous | **Flower colour:** white-green | **Flowering period:** May - May | **Leaf colour:** buds red-violet, green | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, opposite, polished, lacinate | **Autumn colour:** yellow, yellow-orange, orange-red, red | **Fruits:** striking, winged | **Fruit colour:** red-brown | **Bark colour:** white, green | **Bark:** striped | **Twig colour:** red | **Twigs:** striped | **Root system:** shallow, slightly branched, highly branched