Plant Finder

Sharp's Pygmy Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Sharp's Pygmy'



Sharp's Pygmy Japanese Maple
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Description:

One of the smallest dwarf varieties with dense branching and chartreuse-pink new growth maturing to green; beautiful hues of scarlet and orange in the fall; excellent as a small garden accent

Ornamental Features

Sharp's Pygmy Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It has attractive green deciduous foliage which emerges pink in spring. The small lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of scarlet and orange in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Sharp's Pygmy Japanese Maple is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. 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.



Sharp's Pygmy Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Sharp's Pygmy Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Sharp's Pygmy Japanese Maple will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This shrub does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. 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 may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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.

Sharp's Pygmy 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.