PLANT FACT SHEET

Acer palmatum Thunb.

GENUS *Acer* **FAMILY** Sapindaceae

COMMON NAMES Japanese Maple, Palmate maple

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Sap, Leaves

The sugary sap can be eaten. It is normally collected on a sunny day following a freezing night.
The leaves are eaten with oil and salt.

DESCRIPTION

A deciduous tree. It grows 8 m high and spreads 3 m across. The stem is slender and bends easily. It has greenish grey bark. The crown of the tree is rounded. The leaves are green and divided like the fingers on a hand. They have between 5 and 9 lobes on the leaf. The lobes get more narrow towards the tip. The edges of the leaves are like saw teeth. The leaves are on long leaf stalks. The leaves are up to 15 cm long. The leaves turn orange to red in autumn. The flowers are purple to pink. They are small. They grow on branched stalks with a flat topped effect. These flower stalks hang downwards. The seeds occur in double seed containers and the wings stick out sideways. The wings are red. Many cultivated forms have been developed.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. A plant native to China, Japan, and Korea. It requires a well drained soil. It needs fertile soil and an open sunny position. It is drought and frost resistant. It can stand frosts to about -25°C when young shoots are not present. It grows in forests between 200-1200 m altitude in China. Temperate. It suits hardiness zones 6-9. Mt Lofty Botanical Gardens. Hobart Botanical Garden. Burnie Rhodo gardens. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It can be grown from seed or cuttings. Seed should be pre-soaked for 24 hours then kept cold at 0-8°C for 2-4 months to assist them to grow. Seed can be sown fresh if green seeds are used.

Harvesting and Seed Production

They are slow growing.

NOTES

There are about 120-150 Acer species.

PICTURES



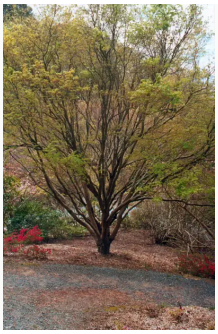
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