

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

SAMARAS



Helicopter or Whirlygig seeds – the correct name is “samaras”- are the seeds of maples with the papery wing attached to the seed enabling it to “take flight”. Maples are not the only trees with winged seeds (but they fly the best!) Ash (Fraxinus) seeds have a single elongated wing and the Elm (Ulmus) seed is located in the centre of a papery circle. Many trees actually carry seeds with wing-like characteristics inside their fruit or cones. However, the bright red samaras on most Maples provide an undeniably outstanding summer/fall interest in the garden!!



Acer circinatum – Zone 6. Vine Maple is a native plant of the Pacific West Coast and is generally an understory tree/shrub in its natural habitat often creating archways in the forest. The trunk (often multi-stemmed) is usually short & crooked with an irregular shaped crown and the foliage is lobed and almost circular. The fall colours are from golden to red, often blended with green. Quite spectacular when fully exposed in the garden. Grows 8-12m depending on location. (pictured at left)

Acer ginnala ‘Red November’ – Zone 4. Red November is a small Amur Maple selection suitable for planting under power lines. It forms a good straight trunk. Introduced by Dr. Michael Dirr featuring bright green foliage even under summer heat stress. Leaves change to their consistent, reliable red fall colour later than typical Amur seedlings. 5.5m H x 7m W (pictured at right)



Acer ginnala ‘Ruby Slippers’ – Zone 3. Ruby Slippers Amur Maple was selected for its straight trunk and dense upright spreading canopy. In early summer, an abundance of large, bright red samaras hang in pairs, like ruby red ballet slippers, from the tree branches! Bright red, orange and gold fall foliage. Smooth gray bark and dense canopy create a nice winter silhouette. Tolerant of drought and urban conditions. 6mH x 6mW (pictured at left)

Acer tataricum ‘Hot Wings’ – Zone 3. Hot Wings Tatarian Maple is a hardy, small, upright spreading tree resembling Acer ginnala. Slow growing and tolerant of alkalinity and drought. Foliage is dark green, turning yellow to orange-red in fall. The samaras provide outstanding summer interest. 7.5mH x 6mW. (Pictured at right)



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