Ojishi Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Ojishi'

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Description:

A stunning addition to the garden, this dwarf tree features curled and crinkled leaves which are held in close knit bunches, adding interest; develops its fall color much later in the season than most other varieties, prefers a sheltered location



Ojishi Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Ojishi Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Ojishi Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its cascading habit of growth. It features subtle corymbs of burgundy flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring before the leaves. It has attractive dark green deciduous foliage which emerges rose in spring. The crinkled palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of gold, orange and coppery-bronze in the fall. The rough gray bark and red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Ojishi Japanese Maple is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. 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.

Ojishi Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Ojishi Japanese Maple will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. 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 full sun to partial shade. You may want to 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 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.

Ojishi 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.