

Acer species

Acer need fertile, well drained, acidic soil. In warmer subtropical climates, full shade is okay. In cooler climates, more sun is better. The purple-leaved cultivars require full sun or their leaves will stay green.

These are not drought tolerant and does best with regular watering. It will grow happily in all Australian climates with the possible exception of fully tropical climates.

Propagation

Many Maples are grafted on to special root stocks, they also can be propagated by rooting softwood cuttings in Spring and Summer.

Maple will grow from seed, and seedlings tend to be faster growing, stronger and more drought tolerant.

Maple seed is perishable and should be sown as soon as possible. If it is to be stored it should be kept dry in an airtight container at 2 to 4°C.

Maple seed will not generally break their dormancy unless exposed to a period of low temperature and moist conditions known as stratification possibly recreating the circumstances of a cold northern winter. This period of "chilling" or stratification can be accomplished first soaking the seed for 24 hours and then by placing seed in a moist, sterile (pasteurized) growing medium, such as a mix of equal parts clean sand and peat or sphagnum peat moss, in a plastic bag or disinfected container. Enclose the container in a tightly sealed plastic bag and place it in the non-freezer section of the refrigerator for three to four months. Towards the end of the stratification period seeds may start to sprout. Seeds are then separated from the stratification medium and germinated at 17 to 22°C.

Sow seed in a good quality seed raising mix. Seed should be laid on their side and covered to about twice their width. Maintain the media in a moist but not damp state.

When large enough to handle, prick the seedlings out into individual pots and grow them on until they are 20cm or taller before planting them out in their permanent positions.

Planting and Care

Maples have fibrous root systems & love to be grown in a sandy loam soil that has a small amount of compost incorporated into it but they will grow in a wide range of soil types that drain well. Mulching is beneficial to retain moisture in the soil over the summer months.

Maples can be grown in full sun to partly shaded positions. Maples can be pruned to maintain shape and to remove any unsightly branching this should be done once the tree has lost its leaves in the winter period.

Fertilise your trees once a year in the springtime with an all purpose fertiliser & a small amount of well rotted manure.

Aphids are a common pest problem and can be sprayed with a chemical such as Folimat, which is available from your local hardware store. Spray where the aphids occur on the branches and under the leaf surfaces, if left untreated aphids may cause leaf distortion.

