



ACER RUBRUM L. 'RED KING'

Fam. Sapindaceae

DESCRIPTION

Medium-large tree that grows up to 12 metres; its red crown is the most characteristic feature that makes this species stand out among similar varieties.

LEAVES

Dark-red leaves, even in summer. They are generally 5–15 cm long and wide, with 3-5 palmate lobes and jagged margins.

FRUITS

Reddish samaras with diverging wings about 2 cm long; they mature between June and July.

HABITAT

This species grows spontaneously in the eastern and central regions of North America.

DISTRIBUTION

Widespread in parks as well as private and public gardens in Italy.

BARK

Pale-grey and rather smooth to the touch when the tree is young, the bark becomes darker and shows some cracks over time.

INTERESTING FACTS

A recent variety, boasting a showy red colour typical of the autumn, the red maple is also known as swamp. Canadians have reinterpreted the Latin tradition by making the red maple their national symbol, printed also on the Canadian flag and military uniforms. In this regard, the red colour is reminiscent of blood, as a sign of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for their country.

FLOWERS

Red flowers formed by five pubescent petals with an oblong linear shape. The maple flowers from April to May, with the flowers appearing before the leaves.

ROOTS

The roots are mainly horizontal and only grow up to 25 cm deep. Fully-grown trees have woody roots up to 25 m long.

