

GREAT PLANT PICKS

**Acer Field Evaluation Report  
7 May 2002, 22 October 2002**

**Stanley and Son Nursery and Don Schmidt Nursery, Boring , Oregon**

Judges in May: Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson, Randall Hitchin, and Guy Meacham

Judges in October: Tanya DeMarsh-Dodson, Guy Meacham, and Larry Stanley

All plants were given a numerical score from 1 (worst) to five (best). Scores on this report reflect the average of one to three individual scores.

Acer	Overall Score	Habit Quality	Foliage Quality	Seed/ Flower Production	Disease Pest Resistance	Cultural Adaptability	Fall Foliage Color	Overall Ornamental Appeal	Comments
<i>A. circinatum</i> 'Little Gem'	<b>5.0</b>	5.0	5.0					5.0	dwarf, all the characteristics of a vine maple only very dwarf
<i>A. c.</i> 'Monroe'	<b>4.8</b>	4.5	5.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	4	4.5	habit upright usually multi-trunked, somewhat open in habit, leaves deeply cut green, blooms in spring, flowers showy red and chartreuse, seeds green, fall color red tones
<i>A. c.</i> 'Pacific Fire*'	<b>4.4</b>	4.3	4.3	1.0	1.0	4.0	N/A	4.5	habit upright, usually multi-trunked, bark of younger wood red, (very like Sago kaka) and showy, foliage green sometimes tinged red, Oct. bark color intensifying
<i>A. c.</i> 'Red Wing*'							4.25		very good yellow and red tones for a circinatum in a pot
<i>A. c.</i> 'Sunglow'	<b>4.4</b>	4.5	5.0					3.7	habit dwarf, like an upright multi-caned shrub, foliage emerges apricot toned lasting 6 weeks in sun and fading to green, fall color is red with purple tones
<i>A. japonicum</i> 'Green Cascade'							4.5		intense red, orange, and yellow fall color
<i>A. j.</i> 'Vitifolium'							5		reds, oranges, and yellows

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<i>A. palmatum</i> 'Atrolineare'	4.7	4.0	5.0					5.0	a linearlobum or thread leaf cultivar, leaves emerge red and fade to green tinged with red in the summer, fall color variable yellows to orange-reds, threadlike dangling leaves give interesting foliage texture, upright in habit and twiggy branching habit
<i>A. p.</i> 'Beni fushigi'	5.0	5.0						5.0	a spring foliage cultivar, leaves emerge pinkish-red turning to red then red -green with reddish tips in summer, fall color red toned, foliage small and lobes narrow so tree finally textured, habit upright somewhat spreading
<i>A. p.</i> 'Beni maiko'	4.2	4.3	4.6		3.0	4.0		5.0	a cultivar for spring color, foliage emerges bright pinkish-red and fades slowly green tinged with pinkish-red tones with main veins remaining reddish, fall color is pink-red to red, leaves very a little in size and shape, habit is upright –spreading and somewhat twiggy
<i>A. p.</i> 'Beni otake'	4.2	5.0	5.0	2.0	4.0	4.0		5.0	a linearlobum cultivar, foliage emerges red in the spring becoming purple-red turning red tinged green in summer and crimson in the autumn, a vigorous grower with an upright habit
<i>A. p.</i> 'Beni schichihenge'							5		fall color yellow, red, and orange-red
<i>A. p.</i> 'Beni tsukasa'	3.0	4.0	4.5	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.5	4.5	a cultivar for spring color, leaves emerge orangey-red and turn to pinkish-red tones on green and then attain muted mottled look speckled lightly with pink-whit dots, fall color orange-pink to dark reds
<i>A. p.</i> 'Bloodgood'							5		foliage red and foliage thinnish so when leaves back-lit the leaves are luminescent

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<i>A. p.</i> 'Carlis Corner' = 'Carlis Corner Broom'	<b>4.0</b>	4.0	4.0					4.0	a dwarf cultivar from witches' broom, foliage purple-red, small, habit somewhat like 'Shania' but more open branching habit
<i>A. p.</i> 'Chishio Improved' = 'Shishio Improved'	<b>3.6</b>	4.0	4.0		3.0	3.0		4.0	a spring foliage cultivar, leaves emerge pinkish-red fading to green in the summer, the leaves are small and the lobes widely spread giving a lacy effect, the habit is upright and spreading
<i>A. p.</i> 'Chitose yama' = 'Chitoseyama'	<b>4.2</b>	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	N/A	4.0	habit upright spreading, foliage dull olive-green tinted reddish, leaves deeply cut serrated edges, Blooms and produces seed from an early age, red seeds ornamental showing well against foliage in summer
<i>A. p.</i> 'Crimson Queen' = <i>A. p.</i> var. <i>dissectum</i> 'Crimson Queen'							3		just beginning to turn in Oct. red tones
<i>A. p.</i> 'Filigree' = <i>A. p.</i> var. <i>dissectum</i> 'Filigree' = 'Green Filigree'*	<b>3.9</b>	4.5	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0		4.0	foliage soft green sometimes lightly flecked with white, habit mounding as branches pendulous like other lace leaf maples
<i>A. p.</i> 'Emperor I'	<b>4.5</b>	5.0	5.0	3.0	4.0	5.0		5.0	excellent habit from early age, mature branching habit early age, vigorous grower, foliage emerges red and holds well throughout summer purplish-red, foliage scarlet in autumn luminescent when back-lit
<i>A. p.</i> 'Fireglow'	<b>4.5</b>	5.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	N/A	4.0	upright to upright spreading cultivar, foliage emerges bright pink-red in spring turning red then red tinged green in summer, fall color is red

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A. p. 'Hogyoku'	4.2	5.0	4.3	3.0	4.0	4.0	5	4.8	habit upright spreading with good stout structural form, foliage emerges rich green and remains that color through autumn, the vivid rich pumpkin orange 'Viridis' like fall is spectacular and the primary reason most people grow the tree
A. p. 'Japanese Sunrise'							4		fall color bright yellows
A. p. 'Kamagata'	4.2	5.0	5.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	5	5.0	a dwarf selection with upright spreading habit, foliage emerges green tinged with red, and turns to green in the summer and bright yellow, orange, and red in autumn, leaf lobes widely separated giving a lovely lacy texture to the plant
A. p. 'Katsura'	4.3	5.0	5.0	3.0	4.0	4.0		5.0	agood plant for spring-summer foliage, leaves emerge orange-yellow with red-red margins and fade to yellow-green in summer, fall color is yellow to orange, habit is upright then upright-spreading
A. p. 'Koto-no-ito'	4.1	4.5	4.5	3.0	4.0	4.0		4.5	a linearlobum cultivar, foliage lobes pale green tinged with red tones and turn green, leaves narrow, and drooping, giving the tree a distinct look, the fall color is yellow, habit is spreading and upright and it is densely branched
A. p. 'Mikawa yatsubusa'	4.1	4.5	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0		5.0	dwarf, spreading habit wider than tall, beautiful very layered look to branches and foliage from an early age, foliage reddish-green late spring and summer and tightly held

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<i>A. p.</i> 'Nishiki gawa' = 'Pine Bark' (Please see notes)	<b>4.2</b>	5.0	4.3	3.0	4.0	4.0		5.0	habit upright to upright spreading, the pine-like roughness begins when the tree is 3-5 years old and develops more each year adding ornament year round. Foliage emerges green and remains so through the summer the petioles are red giving contrast. Fall foliage color is wonderful and long lived ant ranging from yellow to orange-red
<i>A. p.</i> 'Okushimo'	<b>4.0</b>	5.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0		4.3	distinctly upright habit foliage emerges green and remains so until autumn when it turns vivid yellow, sometimes gold, leaf edges curled upward and inward giving the leaf a unique look, foliage tightly held
<i>A. p.</i> 'Omure yama' = 'Omurayama'						4.5			fall color yellow sometimes tinged with red tones
<i>A. p.</i> 'Orange Dream'	<b>3.9</b>	4.3	3.6		4.0	4.0	N/A	3.6	a notable plant for spring color, foliage emerges orange toned and centers lighten to chartreuse with the leaf tips remaining reddish-orange, leaves slowly turn to light yellow-green in summer similar to cultivar 'Katsura' but the foliage is larger and coarser in texture, habit spreading and upright
<i>A. p.</i> 'Orangeola' = <i>A. p.</i> var. <i>dissectum</i> 'Orangeola'							4		fall color red to reddish-purple just beginning fall color

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A. p. 'Peaches and Cream'	<b>3.0</b>	4.0	3.0	3.0		2.0	2	3.0	dramatic highly delineated variegation in new foliage yellow-cream, green, and pink (reminiscent of Shigitatsu-sawa for color patterns), foliage should be protected from the hottest sun, upright spreading habit (wide as tall), fall color yellowish with tints of orange and red
A. p. 'Pixie'	<b>3.8</b>	4.0	4.5	2.0	4.0	4.0		4.5	habit very upright, almost columnar, densely branched, foliage red 5-7 lobed
A. p. 'Red Pygmy'	<b>4.5</b>	5.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	N/A	5.0	a linearilobum or thread-leafed cultivar, foliage emerges red and fades to green-red in mid-summer, upright spreading habit twice as wide as tall
A. p. 'Sango kaku'							5		fall color yellows to golden yellows
A. p. 'Sagara nishiki'	<b>4.3</b>	4.0	5.0					4.0	habit compact, upright and somewhat spreading, foliage variably variegated butter-yellow and bright green, needs partial shade or foliage will burn
A. p. 'Seiryu' = A. p. var. <i>dissectum</i> 'Seiryu'							5		fall color vivid green to yellows to reds and purples
A. p. 'Shaina'	<b>3.9</b>	5.0	4.5	2.0	3.0	4.0	4	5.0	a compact habit upright in youth it is a witches' broom, foliage is purple red and densely held, fall foliage color scarlet
A. p. 'Shigitatsu sawa'							3.5		yellow fall color with tinges of orange and red
A. p. 'Shin deshojo' = 'Shindeshojo'	<b>3.3</b>	4.3	4.3	2.0	2.5	3.0		4.7	fine spring foliage cultivar, leaves emerge flaming scarlet and fades to a reddish green in summer, fall color oranges to reds, habit upright somewhat spreading and twiggy

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<i>A. p.</i> 'Shinobuga oka' = 'Aoshime no uchi'	<b>4.1</b>	4.5	4.5	3.0	4.0	4.0		4.5	a linearlobum or thread leaf cultivar, leaves emerge red eventually fading to green tinged with red at tips, Habit upright spreading with branches sometimes
<i>A. p.</i> 'Shinobuga oka' = 'Scholopendrifolium'	<b>4.5</b>	5.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0		5.0	a linearlobum cultivar, foliage emerges green sometimes tinged pinkish-red and becomes green by summer, fall color yellow, leaf lobes narrow and hang down giving an elegant vertical dimension to the foliage texture
<i>A. p.</i> 'Sumi nagashi'	<b>4.2</b>	5.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0		5.0	habit upright then upright spreading, beautiful branching habit, vigorous even grower, leaves emerge purple-red becoming dark maroon then turning green tinged red, excellent red fall color leaves are thin so great backlighting, petioles are red and the seeds are red too contrasting well with foliage and heavily borne at young age
<i>A. p.</i> 'Tama hime'	<b>4.2</b>	4.5	4.0					4.0	dwarf, vase-shaped habit, leaves star-shaped green leaf edges can be tinted reddish
<i>A. p.</i> 'Tamuke yama' = <i>A. p.</i> var. <i>dissectum</i> 'Tamuke yama' = 'Tamukeyama' = 'Tamuki-yama'	<b>4.8</b>	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.0	5.0		5.0	one of the best lace leaf cultivars for foliage and habit, the leaves emerges deep pinkish-red and turns to purple-red holding its red tones better throughout the summer that most other red varieties, the fall color is the most vivid red of the red cultivars, the foliage is highlighted by the young branches whose dark red wood is overcast with a whitish tone, it is a vigorous even grower with a lovely branching habit widely mounding

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<i>A. p.</i> 'Trompenberg'	<b>3.9</b>	4.0	4.5	3.0	4.0	4.0		4.0	distinctive purple-red foliage, lobes deeply separated and spread, looking like a hand held widely, the tips of the leaves droop slightly giving a nice look to the foliage from a distance, fall color is scarlet, vigorous grower with upright then upright-spreading habit
<i>A. p.</i> 'Ukigumo'	<b>4.6</b>	5.0	-	4.0	4.0	4.0		5.0	upright narrowly spreading habit, foliage variegated by mottling so very subtle but impressive in impact, mottling white and light pink over light green, tree will take sun (but not hot spot) and shade, fall color pink to orange
<i>A. p.</i> 'Villa Taranto'	<b>4.0</b>	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0		4.0	a linearilobum type foliage emerges orange-red and fade to green tinged red at the leaf margins giving a unique color between green and red, leaf lobes very narrow, fall color yellow to gold, habit spreading and somewhat upright giving plant sort of dome shape outline
<i>A. shirasawanum</i> 'Autumn Moon'	<b>4.2</b>	4.0	4.0		4.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	habit upright spreading, foliage emerges yellow with orange-red tips and become burnt-orange with greenish undertones in summer, fall color is yellow, orange and red, foliage color varies with exposure to sun, fairly new introduction, fall color on plants not seen in the trial better
<i>A. s.</i> 'Palmatifolium'							4.5		fall colors yellow and reds

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A. s. 'Ogura yama' = A. <i>pseudo-sieboldianum</i> 'Ogura yama' = 'Ogurayama'	4.2	5.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	5	4.5	habit upright spreading with sturdy well-balanced branching habit, foliage emerges chartreuse green, then fuzzy soft green, and then green by mid-summer, fall color is brilliant rich orange, scarlet, and purple

**Notes:** There is some discussion about the correct naming of two of the *Acer palmatum* cultivars in the group with bark that is rough, furrowed, and likened to the bark of a pine tree. The two cultivars in question are 'Arakawa' and 'Nishiki-gawa'. One of these trees has much more deeply fissured bark and is a much slower grower than the other. The tree we evaluated was the larger grower with a less fissured bark, which is sold in Pacific Northwest nurseries as 'Pine Bark'. The botanical name which should be associated with the common name Pine Bark as it is used in the Pacific Northwest is 'Arakawa' not 'Nishiki-gawa' (Please see Vertrees, *Japanese Maples*, 2001, pp.112, 178) The asterisk (\*) beside the plant name indicates that the plant name was not verified. The GPP committee has been using the current edition of *Japanese Maples* as the primary source for verifying botanical names. The fall foliage is normally at its height in Oregon on the date of the evaluation 22 October. Fall color in 2002 came very late and most of the trees were in the early phases of their fall color; Where you see N/A in the Fall Color column, it signifies that the particular cultivar being evaluated was not yet showing sufficient color to merit comment.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>