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Northwood Red Maple

Miscellaneous Report 175-1980

New *Acer rubrum*
cultivar for northern
climates

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AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Northwood Red Maple

New *Acer rubrum*
cultivar for northern
climates



Northwood Red Maple originated as a native seedling near Floodwood, Minnesota. It is superior to the species for its excellent form. The tree produces a round oval crown with branches ascending from the trunk at approximately a 45° angle. As a young tree it grows at a more rapid rate than other commonly grown cultivars.

Although it was selected as a seedling by Leon Snyder for its fall color, the autumn foliage of the tree in heavy soil at the Horticulture Research Center has not been outstanding. Since it originated from a native population in northern Minnesota it is better adapted to local climatic conditions than other cultivars available.

Northwood Red Maple is suitable for planting as a shade tree, landscape specimen, or boulevard tree. Red maples require moist, slightly acid soil for optimum growth. Northwood should grow well in much of Minnesota, in sites that have proper soil conditions. The tree will not do well in the alkaline soil conditions of the Red River Valley. The hot, dry, windy prairie climate of the southwest or extreme west central part of the state also is unfavorable for optimum growth of red maples.

Northwood Red Maple will be available in extremely limited supply from Minnesota nurseries in the spring of 1981. It will be more widely available from Minnesota nurseries in the spring of 1982.

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