



RED AND FREEMAN MAPLE CARE

LIGHT

Red maple and Freeman maple hybrids grow best in full sun, with partial shade acceptable for red maple. These are substantial shade trees, including narrow cultivars that still develop broad root systems. Choose space for the cultivar's mature height and spread, clear of buildings and overhead wires.

WATER

Water slowly through the root ball and surrounding soil after planting. Check moisture regularly and water deeply when needed, keeping the roots evenly moist during establishment. Adjust for rain, soil drainage, and weather instead of following a fixed daily schedule. Newly planted trees need attention before established trees show drought stress.

SOIL & PLANTING

Prefer moist, acidic soil; red maple also tolerates periodically wet ground. Freeman selections vary in site tolerance. Avoid assuming that every cultivar suits permanent standing water. Keep the root flare visible, spread mulch away from the trunk, and allow room for shallow roots without future paving or soil buildup.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy trees may need no routine feeding. If nutrients are needed, apply a modest amount of tree fertilizer in spring at the label rate. Keep fertilizer off the trunk and avoid heavy nitrogen or late-season feeding that promotes tender growth.

SEASONAL CARE

Develop a sound framework while the tree is young. Remove dead, broken, rubbing, or poorly attached branches selectively, preserving the natural form. Avoid topping and large unnecessary cuts. Maples may drip sap from late-winter or early-spring cuts; schedule elective light pruning for summer after leaves have expanded. Use an arborist for large limbs.

HELPFUL TIPS

Yellow leaves with green veins may indicate iron or manganese availability problems in alkaline soil; test before treating. Root and trunk injuries can cause lasting stress. Fall color and timing vary by cultivar and weather. This guide covers red maples and red/silver hybrids, including those listed under abbreviated inventory names.