

Geisha Gone Wild Japanese Maple



Wow! This small tree's multicolored, curled leaves and graceful vase shape make it a delightful addition to any garden. Talon Buchholtz, an Oregon nursery-

man, discovered a branch with unusual coloring on Acer palmatum 'Geisha,' a variegated cultivar that he imported from New Zealand, which he propagated the sport and named it 'Geisha Gone Wild.' This exceptional tree is hardier and has more consistent coloring than its 'Geisha' parent. In 2021, the Maple Society of North America awarded it the Maple Tree of the Year for its robust growth and beautiful coloring.

Acer palmatum 'Geisha Gone Wild'

- **Use:** Its unique coloring makes it a spectacular focal point as an accent tree in the garden. It is beautiful in a cottage garden, Japanese garden, or mixed border. It is perfect for city gardens or any property with limited space, and it also does well in containers and on patios. Its flowers attract beneficial insects, and its seeds provide food for birds and other wildlife.
- **Exposure/Soil:** *Prefers morning sun with a little afternoon shade in the South to prevent leaf scald in late summer.* . Water regularly, when top 3 in. of soil is dry. Will not tolerate soggy or extremely dry soil. It will become drought-tolerant after it is established, but it is best to water it deeply during periods of dry weather to prevent the leaves from curling. Trees grown in containers will need watering more frequently since the soil in a pot dries out quicker than in the garden.
- **Growth:** Reaches 6-10 ft. tall and wide in 10 years; to 15-20 ft. tall, 15 ft. wide with age (15+ years) in a vase-like shape.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 6-9, Small sized tree
- **Foliage:** Deciduous. In spring, the leaves emerge maroon, outlined in pink, and with curled lobes. Reddish-purple flowers adorn the branches and develop into dark red, winged seeds. In the summer sun, the leaves change color to green with cream margins. However, the maroon and pink coloration will stay longer on the tree in partial shade or with morning sun and shade in the afternoon. In fall, the leaves turn purple, orange, and yellow before they drop, providing three seasons of beautiful color.
- **Flower:** An abundance of flowers each spring that produce a multitude of seeds – called 'samaras'. The samaras hang down as little ornaments which adds to the overall look of this beautiful maple.

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