



# Paperbark Maple

*Acer griseum*

Maple Family (Aceraceae)

Zones: 5-7

Full Sun

Moderate Water

Location: Floral Walk and Perennial Garden

Paperbark Maple is a native of China and is a true four-seasons tree. It will grow in most well drained soils and is pH adaptable. It is relatively free of pests and diseases and grows best in full sun, although it will tolerate light shade.

Paperbark Maple reaches a height of 20 to 30 feet, spreading about one-half to equal its height. It grows slowly and is ideal for use in front of large conifers, close to the house or patio and as an accent or specimen tree where you can enjoy the changing of the seasons. Because it is low-growing, it is also a good choice near power lines.

Winter is a wonderful season for this tree. This is the season to enjoy the exfoliating bark, which peels back in strips to expose the underlying bark that is a beautiful red-brown to cinnamon color. These different textures and colors dazzle the eye when viewed against a background of white snow.

Spring is welcomed in with new dark red foliage that emerges from dark red, fuzzy buds. The leaves, each comprised of three leaflets, turn dark green in summer. The softly fuzzy gray undersides of the leaves give Paperbark Maple its botanical name "griseum", which means bluish-gray or pearl-gray. Like other maples, it has paired winged seedpods called samaras. Finally in the fall, the foliage turns lovely colors ranging from bronze to russet-red to red.

Paperbark Maple is a tree that you should consider for your garden. It has something interesting happening every day of the year.