

Leaves, Limbs, Needles, and Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

September to most everyone means the start of the Fall Season. At least to golf course superintendents it means cooler nights and warm days. With fall approaching you look forward to the fall colors. What color really grabs your attention? To me it is the color red. Red really stands out on the hillsides (golly, I think I'm still living in Pennsylvania where they do have hillsides) or in the trees along the roughs. Well, this month's selection of a tree has the brightest red leaves of almost any plant you can think of.

Acer campestre (a-ser kam-pes'tre) Common name is Hedge Maple.

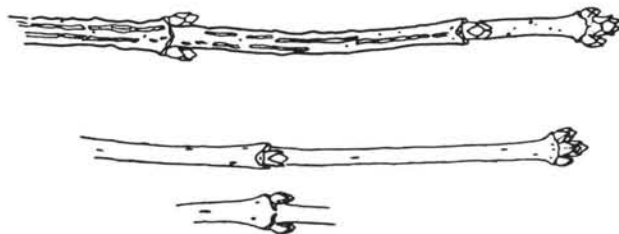
This is a tree that gets to be only 25 to 35' and the spread about the same as the height. It is a good street tree for it can stay under the wires.

Leaves: Opposite, simple, 2-4'' across, dark green above, pubescent beneath, 3-5 rounded, entire lobes, deep dark green.



Buds: Terminal is imbricate, 1/8'' long, grayish brown to brownish black.

Stem: Slender, glabrous, light brown, somewhat lustrous lenticelled. Second year stems gray-brown, more prominently lenticelled; stems often develop corky fissures; pith solid white.



Rate: Slow, 10 to 14' over a 10 to 15 year period; can be pushed in the nursery and may average 2' per year.

Culture: Transplants easily, extremely adaptable; prefers rich, well-drained soil, but performs well in high pH soils. Tolerant of dry soils and compaction. Can take full sun or partial shade and withstands pruning.

If you want color on your golf course in the fall, this is one of the many trees to choose. Availability is so-so in our area.

Specializing in Golf Course Renovations

Tees • Greens • Traps • Fairways • Hydroseeding

company, inc.
don fiore

landscape contractors & architects
golf course contractors

28846 Nagel Court
Lake Bluff, Illinois 60044
708-234-0020
Fax 708-234-0922

Certified Member: American Society of Landscape Architects
Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents