
Acer rubrum Brandywine

One of the most stunning autumn colour displays of all the Acer rubrum varieties.

The Brandywine was first cultivated in 1982 by A. M. Townsend by crossing Acer rubrum October Glory and Autumn Flame. This cultivar was part of a research project to create the most stunning and reliable autumn colour display, as well as resistance to leaf hopper aphids. It was examined closely for 12 years, before being first released in December 1994 by the US National Arboretum.

The leaves emerge in spring a pale, butter popcorn yellow, which contrast wonderfully against the small red clusters of erect flowers. These leaves then darken to a lush, healthy green for the hot summer months ahead. Come the autumn though, this tree comes into its own with a magnificent display of ruby red colours and shades of succulent damson purple.



It is the most reliable of all the autumn colours, as it always provides its dependable, striking glamor in any soil type. As a hybrid, the Brandywine is exclusively male. This means the flowers do not produce the helicopter seeds, so can be planted without generating the unwanted seedlings around it.

It is a little narrower than acer seedlings, with a tighter oval canopy that will always remain within a 4m width. This, along with its hardiness to different soil types, makes it a perfect choice for urban street tree planting. It will establish well in both slightly acidic and alkaline soil types, always providing its wonderful array of colours to the landscape. The other major part of its research was its resistance to leaf pests, being one of the hardiest choices of all trees in general. This includes species such as leaf hoppers, aphids, cottony scale and mites which all have minimal impact on the tree.

A perfect choice for climate change, as it is highly tolerant of adverse weather conditions. It has high resilience to both drought and cold temperatures.

It is an excellent shade provider, and with its tighter canopy, only providing a deep, cooling shade directly under the tree itself.

To enjoy all these benefits, the Brandy Wine does require regular water maintenance in its first 2-4 years of establishment. This is to develop its fibrous root system and will require watering twice a week in the absence of rain.

At Wyevale, we grow a range of sizes of this incredible hybrid.

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