Acer x freemanii Celebration

Developed at the Lake Country Nursery in Ohio and released at the US National Arboretum during the 1930's by Oliver Freeman. Oliver was fascinated by these hybrids that occur naturally in the wild, and was the prominent horticulturalist to synthesize these for commercial tree production.

The Celebration is a hybrid of the Acer saccharinum (silver) and Acer rubrum (red). Oliver knew that crossing the two species would produce hybrids containing the very best attributes of each species. So, whilst the tree establishes, it is noticeably faster growing due to its saccharinum parentage, growing a girth size larger than other Acers every season.

In early spring, its subtle red flowers emerge along its bare branches, allowing the lobed leaf shape of the saccarinum leaves to develop. These turn a lush emerald green for the hot summer months ahead, but come the autumn its wonderful rubrum parentage begins to truly take over. The canopy becomes an ever changing, evolving blaze of colours, with shades of golden yellow, blended with hues of molten orange, mixed in with deep fiery reds.

A key feature of the celebration is its flowing, well formed canopy structure, meaning that the tree will require almost no pruning. The fissured older grey bark is offset by its brick red new growth that provides year round interest. The canopy is naturally so well formed, it is a perfect choice for exposed sites where its branches have a lower risk of breaking from strong winds or snow.

Like other Acer cultivars, this hybrid is male and wont produce the unwanted seeds and regrowth around the tree. Just be cautious of planting within proximity of other existing maples in the area.

It does extremely well in hard standing areas, making it a perfect choice for a larger urban street tree planting. It will reach up to 15m tall, with a flowing, graceful canopy reaching 7m at its maximum.

At Wyevale Trees, we grow this hybrid in a range of sizes, both in our field grown production, and as part of our container tree division.

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