

General Information

The 'Crimson King' isn't native to North America, but was introduced to Philadelphia in 1792 as an ornamental street tree from Europe. The tree can still be found in between streets and sidewalks across the country. It normally grows between 35 to 45 feet tall and has a spreading width of 25 to 30 feet. During the spring and summer, you'll see the 'Crimson King' with purple-green or yellow leaves until fall. The leaves turn to a dark maroon color before falling. If you break the leaf, a milky sap oozes out. The tree's crown is symmetrical and oval shaped.



Milky sap

Sources

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st032>

http://www.cirrusimage.com/tree_crimson_maple.htm

http://www.backyardgardener.com/plantname/pda_9103.html

http://www.ehow.com/about_5418174_crimson-king-maple-information.html

Crimson King Norway Maple

Acer platanoides



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Crimson King Norway Maple



Simple, palmate, lobed, coarsely serrated leaf

Disease & Pests

Just like humans, the ‘Crimson King’ can become diseased with the Verticillium Wilt. The disease multiplies when exposed to moisture and attacks the tree’s water mechanism system cause the tree to wilt due to the lack of water it absorbs. Aphids are also a problem for ‘Crimson Kings.’ While one isn’t a problem, when many start to attack the tree they plant a virus within the tree. The side effects of the virus are stunting and deformation in the leaves/buds.

Fall Foliage

During the fall season, leaf color changes from purple-green to a dark maroon color. While many people think the change is due to cooler weather in the fall, it’s really because the “chemical clock” within the tree begins to notice a change in the amount of sunlight per day. Once the amount of sunlight per day begins to decrease and the tree detects it, sap flow to the leaves is restricted cause the leaves to become dark maroon.



Seeds & Growing Area

Since the seeds of the ‘Crimson King’ are two-winged, they spread easily in the wind. Due to the tree being shade-tolerant and efficient, in terms of nutrients and water, makes seed spreading easy, as well. ‘Crimson King’s’ are the most popular street trees, partially because it is able to live in high pollution areas.

What tree family is the Crimson King Norway Maple is a member of?

- A) *Acer*
- B) *Quercus*
- C) *Ulmus*
- D) *Juglans*