Floating Cloud Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Ukigumo'

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Ukigumo Japanese Maple

Description:

An exciting variegated form of Japanese maple with graceful leaves which are cream colored with green splashes and a pink overlay, colors can vary with the seasons, year to year or even tree to tree - no two are alike; the ultimate specimen plant

Ornamental Features

Floating Cloud Japanese Maple is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its ornamental globe-shaped form. It has attractive creamy white-spotted green foliage with hints of pink which emerges pink in spring. The small lobed palmate leaves are highly ornamental and turn outstanding shades of yellow, gold and red in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Floating Cloud Japanese Maple is a dense deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned in summer after the leaves have fully developed, as it may 'bleed' sap if pruned in late winter or early spring. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Floating Cloud Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Floating Cloud Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Floating Cloud Japanese Maple foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Floating Cloud Japanese Maple will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. You may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Floating Cloud Japanese Maple is a fine choice for the yard, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.