

Tree of the Month - Autumn Blaze Maple



The 'Autumn Blaze' maple (*Acer x freemanii* 'Autumn Blaze') is a hybrid of the red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and the silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*). This tree brings together the best characteristics of both parent species. It was first developed in the 1960s by Glenn Jeffers, a horticulturist with the United States Department of Agriculture, to create a tree that would grow quickly and display brilliant fall color.

This tree is a favorite in landscapes across North America. It is a fast grower, usually adding two feet to its height each year, quickly transforming into a majestic specimen. It usually reaches a mature height of 40 to 50 feet with a spread of 30 to 40 feet.

In the spring and summer, the leaves are medium to dark green, providing a lovely contrast to the surrounding landscape. As the temperatures begin to drop and autumn arrives, the leaves transform into a brilliant blend of orange and red hues. ([Autumn Blaze Maple: Fall Color, Growth Rate, Lifespan & Other Characteristics - AMERICAN GARDENER](#))

This is the first newly planted tree donated by the Pearl S. Buck International Education Committee on the opening day ceremony of the Green Hills Farm Arboretum on May 31, 2026.