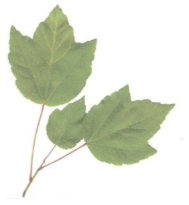


‘RED SUNSET’ RED MAPLE

Acer rubrum ‘Franksred’

Red Sunset Red Maple, aka ‘Franksred’. The Red Maple grows to heights of 50-60 feet and spreads to 40-50 feet. The crown is broadly ovate with a medium texture. The foliage has glossy thick leaves that persist late in fall, turning orange-red to brilliant red. The ‘Red Sunset’ Red Maple is a beautiful tree year-round. Tiny red flowers emerge in early March, the first sign of spring, and a symbol that hope springs eternal. The buds decorate the tree for 4 weeks before the leaves appear. The new leaves are often rusty red for a few days before turning green. In late October, the tree begins to prepare for winter by changing from deep green to brilliant red. In the winter, the branch ends, twigs, and buds are burgundy red, making this tree beautiful on a snowy day. The young trees are susceptible to wind driven road salt, storm damage, warm climate leaf scorch, and damage to their thin barks.



The plantings of ‘Red Sunset’ Red Maples were part of the Arbor Day tree program that replaced partially dead or diseased Norway Maples growing on both sides of Mt. Laurel Avenue leading up the hill to the chapel, and along the loop of Woodland Avenue. While the trees formed a picturesque canopied lane, there was concern that the dead branches would fall and injure someone. The Norway Maples were removed 6-10 per year over a four year program that encompassed years 2003-2006.



Beginning in 2003, three ‘Sunset Reds’ were planted with one on each side of the 16th Street entrance and one at the corner of Mt. Laurel Avenue and Valley Road. Five more were planted in 2004 on the Woodland Avenue loop as it meets Mt. Laurel Avenue. Seven were planted in 2005 on Mt. Laurel Avenue, closer to the carriage house. Ten were

planted in 2006 on both sides of Mt. Laurel leading up the hill towards the chapel. In 2007, 13 were planted on both sides of Mt. Laurel Avenue at the steeper part of the hill closer to the chapel. The trees are doing well, and in a few years, their branches will once again gracefully canopy Mt. Laurel Ave. In 2013, 10 ‘Red Sunsets’ were planted on the eastern side of Chapel Avenue, and along a grass path off of Chapel Avenue that separates two Mt. Laurel Cemetery sections.

