Interesting Maples - ACER saccharum 'CADDO' Maple

Mature Height (ft.): 40 to 60' Spread (ft.): 40 to 60'

Growth Rate: Slow to moderate Exposure: Sun to part shade Flower: Inconspicuous

Fruit: Winged seeds, developing in the spring

Color: Dark green, turning brilliant red / orange / yellow in the fall

Sugar Maples are excellent shade trees that produce spectacular fall color. However, they are sensitive to heat, drought, and pollution. These maples require rich, well-drained soils, and respond poorly to soil compaction and salt. Fortunately for Oklahoma, a subspecies (believed to be an ecotype) of the Sugar Maple was discovered in the southwest part of the state that is specifically adapted to our hot summers and drying winds. This maple was named after its county of origin, the "Caddo Maple." It is unique in that it can tolerate what other Maples cannot. However, unlike most trees, the Caddo Maple will respond negatively when overly maintained or irrigated. There are now cultivars of the Caddo maple that have been developed; 'John Pair' and 'Autumn Splendor'.

Maples in general are noted for their spectacular fall color, and the Caddo is no exception. This large tree requires ample room to grow, and would best be suited to rural areas, golf courses, parks, and estates. Along with its beautiful rounded shape and impressive seasonal color, its dense canopy provides ample shade, and its durable wood and small fruits make the Caddo Maple a wonderful addition to the Oklahoma landscape. If the Caddo Maple is not available in local nurseries, other heat and drought-resistant sugar maples to consider are *Acer saccharum* 'Legacy' and 'Green Mountain.' Other notable Sugar Maples are *Acer saccharum* 'October Glory' and 'Red Sunset.' Also worth mentioning is the 'Autumn Blaze' maple for its fast growth and early fall color. It is a cross between the Silver Maple and Red Maple

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