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Bloodgood Japanese Maple Tree

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Mrs. Jones

November 5, 2021

Nature Note

Bloodgood Japanese Maple Tree

It was 3:30 pm, Friday October 29, 2021. The weather was partly cloudy partly sunny, in the mid 50's outside. I was in my front lawn in NH. I was looking at the tree in my front lawn



that has been there my whole life and found it interesting that its leaves were shaped funny, also that the color of the leaves didn't change colors like most of the other trees during the fall season. It made me wonder why the leaves were shaped the way they were, and what kind of tree it was. Also how come

the leaves didn't change color like most other trees in the fall. I found it quite funny how I haven't asked these questions before when the same tree has been in my front lawn my whole life.

After doing some research I found out that it was called a Japanese Maple Tree. It is in the *Atropurpureum* category, and named a bloodgood.

The leaves are deeply lobed with 5 "fingers", and it has dark red foliage, also it has very low maintenance. One surprising thing I found out was that it actually does change color! The colors are very close and may be hard to see if you aren't looking close enough. The



leaves are purple in the spring, burgundy in the summer, and crimson in the fall. Another thing is that the winter adds a visual interest with silvery bark. Now that I figured out that they do change

color I was like, why do they change color ever so slightly? Basically, when leaves change color they stop the process of their food-making. That means the chlorophyll breaks down and the green color disappears. In this tree the chlorophyll is already broken down so the color is already red causing the trees color to change less. Some other fun facts about the bloodgood are, that the leaves color fades in full sun, it is disease resistant and it can live more than 100 years!

Since I learned this, I wonder why the leaves change colors ever so slightly, also how come they live for so long, could it have something to do with the disease resistance? Another thing was, what if the tree was in full sun all the time, would the leaves color start to fade so



much that you could easily notice it? To answer some of my questions, I would go out and watch the tree once every 2 weeks to how much the tree leaves really change color throughout the seasons. I also would watch in the summer time, every few days, to see if there is a noticeable change

from the full time sun.

Sources

gardenerspath.com - A Guide To The Different Types of Japanese Maple Trees

thisoldhouse.com - Everything You Need To Know About Bloodgood Japanese Maple Trees