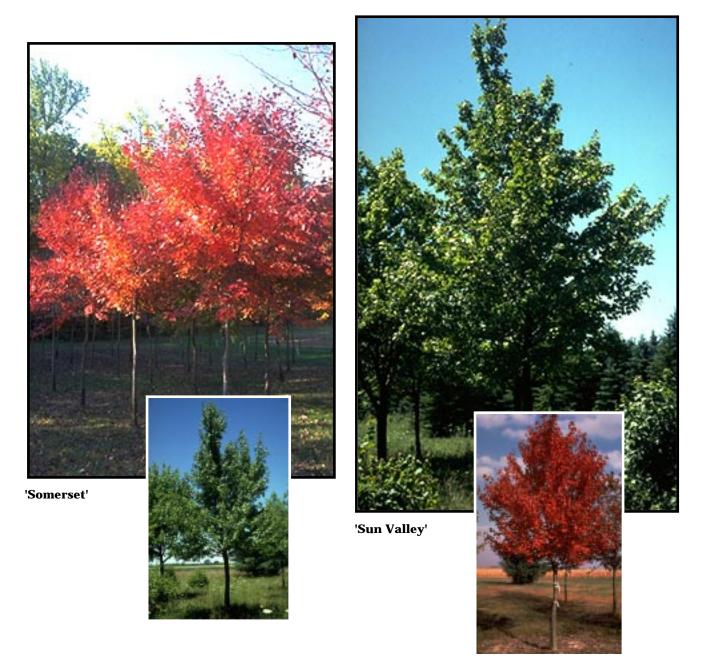
## Acer rubrum 'Somerset' and 'Sun Valley'



The U.S. National Arboretum presents 'Somerset' and 'Sun Valley' red maples, two additional selections from the U.S. National Arboretum red maple research evaluation program. Showing excellent, long-lasting red fall color, tolerance to potato leafhopper, and symmetrical form, these male selections will fill important niches in the nursery industry and in the landscape.



## **U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction**







## 'Somerset' and 'Sun Valley' Red Maple

**Botanical Name:** Acer rubrum L. 'Somerset'

(NA 59905; PI 583791) *Acer rubrum* L. 'Sun Valley' (NA 59906; PI 583790)

**Family:** Aceraceae

**Hardiness:** U.S.D.A. Zones 4–7; 'Somerset' to Zone 8.

**Development:** 'Somerset' and 'Sun Valley' resulted from controlled crosses made in 1982 by

A.M. Townsend as part of a tree genetics research project examining the inheritance of fall color and leafhopper resistance. 'Somerset' is a cross of *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory' and *A. rubrum* 'Autumn Flame'. 'Sun Valley' is a cross of *A. rubrum* 'Red Sunset' and *A. rubrum* 'Autumn Flame'. Released

December, 1994.

Significance: 'Somerset' and 'Sun Valley' are red maple cultivars with exceptional, long-

lasting red fall color and significant levels of tolerance to potato leafhopper—better than or comparable to many commercially available red maple cultivars in long-term tests in Maryland and Ohio. 'Somerset' appears to

color well as far south as Georgia.

**Description:** Height and Width: 'Somerset': 23 feet tall, 11 foot crown spread at 12

years. 'Sun Valley': 21 feet tall, 10 feet wide at 10 years.

**Habit:** Medium-sized deciduous trees. 'Somerset': moderately ovate crown.

'Sun Valley': symmetrical ovate crown.

**Foliage:** Brilliant red, consistently good fall color in Oregon, Maryland, and Ohio. In Maryland, fall color lasts approximately 2 weeks and peaks in the 3rd to 4th week of October, about 1 week before 'October Glory'. Medium green leaves in summer. 'Somerset': 3.7 inches long, 4.3 inches wide. 'Sun

Valley': 3.8 inches long and wide.

**Bark:** Light grey and smooth when young; turning dark grey with age.

**Flowers:** Male, early spring. **Fruit:** No fruit produced.

**Culture:** Adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions. Prefer slightly acid, moist soils.

Performed well in diverse locations from Alabama and Georgia to Michigan

and Oregon.

**Propagation:** Root easily from softwood cuttings under mist, 1000–3000 ppm IBA, in 4

weeks. Both have been propagated successfully in tissue culture.

**Landscape Use:** Excellent for lawn, street, highway, or park plantings and as shade trees for

residential sites.

**Distribution:** Distributed to wholesale commercial propagation nurseries beginning in

1995. Availability expected after 2002.

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## **U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction**

Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

