

Cosmic Flare Sugar Maple

Acer saccharum 'CosDak' (Family: *Sapindaceae*)

Description: This selection originated from a seedling propagated boulevard tree in Fargo, North Dakota. Similar shape as Apollo® sugar maple but wider making it an excellent boulevard tree candidate. Extremely dense foliage during the summer with earlier fall shutdown as compared to other commercially available cultivars.

Hardiness: USDA hardiness zones 3b to 6

Mature Size: Height: 30', Spread: 18'

Form (Shape): Pyramidal-rounded form.

Growth Rate: Medium

Foliage: Deciduous

Summer: excellent medium green color throughout the summer showing no signs of chlorosis on a soil pH greater than 7.8

Autumn: ranges from yellow-orange to orange-red, depending on the year.

Texture: Medium

Flower: Produced in drooping corymbs before the leaves emerge. Short-lived spring interest, not overly showy.

Fruit: Schizocarp (two-winged samara) ripening in fall, not showy.

Light Preferences: Full sun exposure.

Soil Preferences: Prefers a deep, well-drained, non-droughty soil, will tolerate higher pH levels than the species.

Propagation: Summer budding onto northern sugar maple rootstocks.

Ornamental Attributes: Extreme density of the summer foliage and pyramidal-rounded form which sets it apart from the species (upright oval to rounded with a height of 45 feet and 40-foot spread) and other sugar maple cultivars.

Landscape Attributes: Excellent medium green color throughout the summer showing no signs of chlorosis on a soil pH greater than 7.

Comments: The mature form is similar to Greenspire® linden (*Tilia cordata* 'PNI 6025') which is one of the most commonly planted littleleaf linden cultivars. Littleleaf lindens have been overplanted in many regions and Cosmic Flare™ would be an excellent substitute for planting diversity.

Availability: Pending

