



## *Ginkgo biloba* 'Autumn Gold' 'Autumn Gold' Maidenhair Tree<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

This male cultivar of *Ginkgo* is practically pest-free, resistant to storm damage, and casts dense shade (Fig. 1). It makes a durable street tree where there is enough overhead space to accommodate the large size. The shape is often irregular with a large branch or two seemingly forming its own tree on the trunk. But this does not detract from its usefulness as a city tree unless the tree will be growing in a restricted overhead space. If this is the case, select from the narrow upright cultivars such as 'Princeton Sentry' and 'Fairmont'. *Ginkgo* tolerates most soil, including compacted, and alkaline. The tree is easily transplanted and has a vivid yellow fall color which is second to none in brilliance, even in the south. However, leaves fall quickly and the fall color show is short. Unlike the species, the tree does not set fruit.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Ginkgo biloba* 'Autumn Gold'

**Pronunciation:** GINK-go bye-LOE-buh

**Common name(s):** 'Autumn Gold' Maidenhair Tree, 'Autumn Gold' *Ginkgo*

**Family:** *Ginkgoaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 3 through 8A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Uses:** Bonsai; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; tree has been successfully grown in urban areas where air

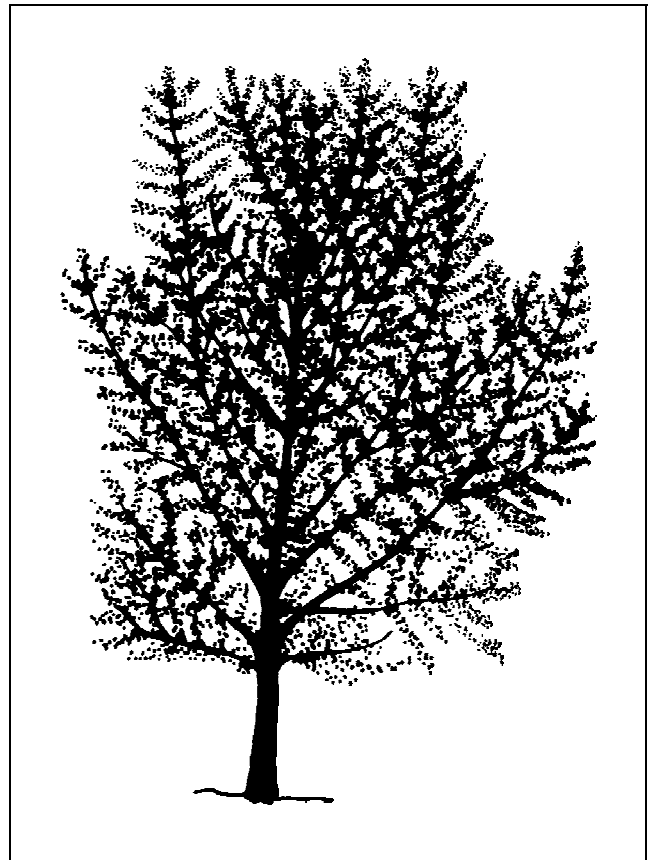


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Autumn Gold' Maidenhair Tree.

pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-274, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 25 to 50 feet

**Spread:** 25 to 35 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

**Crown shape:** oval

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** lobed

**Leaf shape:** fan-shaped

**Leaf venation:** parallel; palmate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow

**Fall characteristic:** showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** green

**Flower characteristics:** pleasant fragrance; inconspicuous and not showy; spring flowering

## Fruit

There is no fruit on this tree.

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** grow mostly upright and will not droop; showy trunk; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown; gray

**Current year twig thickness:** medium; thick

## Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

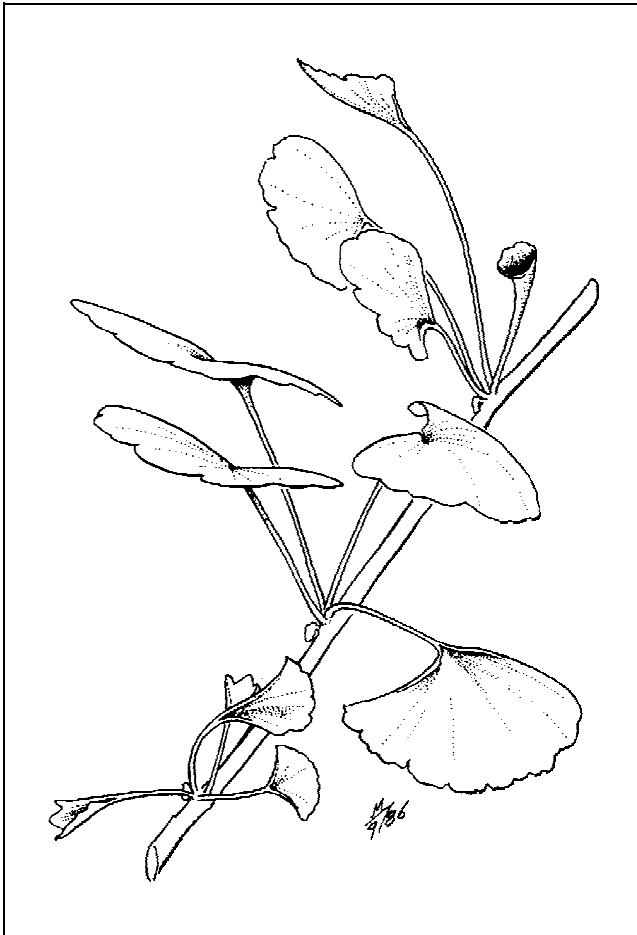


Figure 3. Foliage of 'Autumn Gold' Maidenhair Tree.

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; acidic; occasionally wet; alkaline; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerance:** poor

### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible

**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the tree

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

Ginkgo may grow extremely slow for several years after planting, but will then pick up and grow at a rapid rate, particularly if it receives an adequate supply of water and some fertilizer. But do not overwater or plant in a poorly-drained area. Get grass away from several feet around the trunk to help the tree become established. Very tolerant of urban soils and pollution, Ginkgo could be used more in USDA hardiness zone 7 but is not recommended in central and southern Texas or Oklahoma due to summer heat. Adapted for use as a street tree, even in confined soil spaces. Some early pruning to form one central leader is essential.

There are several other cultivars: 'Fairmont' - male, fruitless, upright, oval to pyramidal form; 'Fastigiata' - male, fruitless, upright growth; 'Laciniata' - leaf margins deeply divided; 'Lakeview' - male, fruitless, compact broad conical form; 'Mayfield' - male, upright fastigate (columnar) growth; 'Pendula' - pendent branches; 'Princeton Sentry' - male, fruitless, fastigate, narrow conical crown for restricted overhead spaces, popular, 65 feet tall, available in some nurseries; 'Santa Cruz' - umbrella-shaped, 'Variegata' - variegated leaves.

Propagation is by budding to seedling understock.

## Pests and Diseases

This tree is pest-free and considered resistant to gypsy moth.