

Autumn Blaze Maple

(Acer x freemanii ‘Autumn Blaze’ — hybrid of Red Maple x Silver Maple)




Autumn Blaze is one of the most popular maples in Colorado, prized for its **fast growth, upright form, and brilliant red fall color**. As a hybrid, it performs better here than true Red Maple but still struggles with **alkaline soils, chlorosis, scorch, borers, and sometimes structural issues** from rapid growth.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | ☀️ Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Aphids	Insect	Spring–Fall	🌸☀️🍂
Scale insects	Insect/scale	Spring crawlers; visible year-round	🌸❄️

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Maple borers (flatheaded & roundheaded)	Insect/borer	Summer	
Leaf spot / anthracnose	Fungus	Spring–Summer	 
Tar spot (rare in CO)	Fungus	Spring–Summer	 
Verticillium wilt	Fungus	Spring–Fall	  
Chlorosis (very common)	Abiotic	Spring–Summer	 
Leaf scorch (heat/drought)	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	 

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticky honeydew and sooty mold • Leaf curling • Ants climbing tree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hose-rinse leaves • Release/encourage lady beetles • Systemic treatments for heavy outbreaks
Scale Insects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard or cottony bumps on bark • Yellowing leaves • Twig dieback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat crawler stage in late spring • Horticultural oil late winter • Prune heavily infested twigs

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Maple Borers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D-shaped or round exit holes • Boring dust • Branch dieback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep watering during hot months • Avoid trunk injury • Professional preventive sprays during active season
Anthrachnose / Leaf Spot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown blotches • Irregular leaf shape • Early leaf drop, especially in wet springs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove fallen leaves • Improve airflow • Fungicides rarely needed
Tar Spot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black raised spots on leaves • Mostly cosmetic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake leaves in fall • No chemical treatment needed in CO
Verticillium Wilt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden wilting on one side • Brown/green streaks in sapwood • Dieback progressing over seasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cure—manage stress • Prune out affected limbs • Deep water and mulch to support health
Chlorosis (Iron Deficiency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bright yellow leaves with green veins • Stunted growth • Twig dieback if severe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iron trunk injections (pros) • Soil amendments to lower pH (limited success) • Reduce overwatering in clay soils
Leaf Scorch (Heat/Drought)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown, crispy leaf edges • Early fall color • Premature leaf drop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep water every 2–3 weeks • Maintain a 2–4" mulch ring • Avoid reflected heat areas (south/west exposures)

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

 **When to Worry (action recommended)**

- Severe chlorosis across the canopy (very common in CO)
- Sudden branch wilting (possible **Verticillium wilt**)
- Borer exit holes or sawdust-like frass
- Repeated leaf scorch each summer
- Large limbs cracking due to fast, weak growth

These issues need **professional evaluation and long-term management.**

● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Light anthracnose in wet springs
- Minor honeydew from aphids
- Occasional scorch during heat waves
- Small amounts of scale
- Early fall color during drought seasons

These typically resolve with **proper watering and seasonal conditions.**