

Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum*) and their relatives offer a large group of plants that can be adapted to almost any garden style and situation. In fact, a wonderful garden could be constructed entirely around a collection of maples. Height, habit, leaf form, seasonal color and interesting bark vary widely among the numerous cultivars. This offers opportunities for interplay with other plants.

Maples flourish in humus-rich, well-drained soil. While they are reasonably drought tolerant once established, supplemental water during summer dry spells results in stronger growth and a generally healthier tree. Fertilize in early spring with a balanced fertilizer such as Dr. Earth All Purpose fertilizer. Maples can be pruned judiciously, with an eye to enhancing a plant's overall shape and natural beauty. If possible, avoid gardening underneath a Japanese maple – damage to the roots can be an entry point for a maple's greatest foe – the soil-borne fungus called verticillium wilt.

In general, Japanese maples are medium-growing, vase-like trees that grow to 15 to 20 feet tall and 12 to 15 feet wide in about ten years. Over time, they can get much larger. They are adaptable to sun or part shade and are generally hardy to -10°F. Fall color is usually striking and can be shades of yellow, orange or red.

Many varieties with pale or variegated leaves need afternoon shade or filtered light to keep the leaves from burning. Most Japanese maples do well in containers; however, bear in mind that plants in containers are more vulnerable than plants in the ground to temperature extremes and drought.

Many Japanese maples offer spectacular fall foliage color and/or colored bark through the winter. In early fall, Sky Nursery gets in fresh stock of varieties noted for their fall and winter interest. Below is a list of varieties we plan to offer this fall. As always, please call or email to check availability and prices.

The following list gives more information on specific cultivars. We first list our ***Acer palmatum*** cultivars by approximate size: laceleaf varieties, dwarf varieties, small trees, and medium trees. After that we list cultivars of ***Acer japonicum*** and ***A. shirasawanum***, and finally the new cold-hardy hybrid ***Acer x pseudosieboldianum***.

ACER PALMATUM DISSECTUM (LACELEAF) VARIETIES

'Crimson Queen' Height 3-6 feet; width 5-6 feet. Sun or part shade. Dark red leaves all summer—bright scarlet in fall. Most popular laceleaf variety.

'Emerald Lace' Height 6-7 feet; width 7-8 feet. Filtered sun or part shade. Lime green new foliage turns vivid emerald—wine red to bright red fall color. More vigorous than most laceleaf maples.

'Inaba shidare' Height 4-6 feet; width 5-8 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. One of the darkest purple-red laceleaves—holds color all summer. Brilliant crimson in fall.

'Orangeola' Height 3-5 feet; width 4-6 feet. Sun or part shade. Red color fades a bit in summer, and then turns brilliant orange-red in fall.

'Red Dragon' Height and width 3-4 feet. Sun or part shade. Deepest red laceleaf maple—hold color well. Scarlet fall color.

'Seiryu' One of the few laceleaf Japanese maples with an upright habit. Slow-growing, vase-shaped tree. Height 12-15 feet; width 6-10 feet. Sun or part shade. Green foliage has a delicate and graceful effect. Light-gold fall color.

'Tamukeyama' (BOLDRED LACELEAF MAPLE) Height and width 5-6 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Very dark purple-red foliage holds color well. Bright scarlet fall color.

'Viridis' (GREEN LACELEAF MAPLE) Height 2-6 feet; width 3-6 feet. Sun or part shade. Intense light green color all summer. Yellow and orange in fall.

'Waterfall' Height 6-8 feet; width 8-10 feet. Green foliage, darker than 'Viridis.' Gold streaked with red-orange in fall.

ACER PALMATUM SHRUBBY & DWARF VARIETIES (UNDER 8 FEET)

'Akita yatsubasa' Slow-growing, vase-like, dwarf tree. Height and width 3-4 feet. Dense habit; small leaves open chartreuse streaked with red, turn bright green in summer. Bright red fall color. Excellent bonsai subject.

'Bihou' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 7-8 feet; width 3-4 feet. Sun or part shade. Tiny foliage is yellow green; bright golden-yellow fall color. Twigs and branches have vivid coral to yellow bark in winter.

'Hime Shojo' Height 3-5 feet, width 3-6 feet. Sun or part shade, but best color in full sun. Very fine foliage is cherry red in spring, deep maroon in summer, bright cherry red in fall. Does well in containers.

'Kamagata' Slow-growing, vasselike tree. Height 3-4 feet; width 3-4 feet. Hardy to 0°F. Red-edged light green leaves turn full green in summer. Leaf edges curve slightly up. Fall color is yellow to orange with a touch of red.

'Koto no ito' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 6-8 feet; width 4-5 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Narrow green leaves turn shades of yellow in fall.

'Kurenai jishi' Slow-growing, mounding tree. Height 4-5 feet; width 3-4 feet. Very dense and compact. Curling leaves overlay each other like shingles on a roof. Bright red in spring, green in summer, red again in fall. Contrasting bark is bright green. Excellent bonsai subject.

'Little Sango' Height 5 feet, width 3 feet. Very compact, upright dwarf Coral Bark type with dense branching. Light green foliage turns orange and yellow in fall. Winter bark is vivid red.

'Mikawa yatsubusa' (MIKAWA DWARF JAPANESE MAPLE) Slow-growing, mounding tree. Height 4-5 feet; width 3-4 feet. Very dense and compact. Light green leaves overlay each other like shingles on a roof. Wonderful bonsai subject. Fall color shades of red, orange, or yellow, depending on sun.

'Nishiki gawa' (DWARF PINE BARK JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium-growing vase-like tree. Height 5-6 feet; width 5-6 feet. Likes sun. Hardy to 0°F. Corky, warty bark appears as plant ages. Green foliage. Good fall color.

'Pung Kil' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 7-8 feet; width 3-4 feet. Hardy to -20°F. Purple-red leaves have long slender lobes. Color holds well through. Brilliant red in fall.

'Ryusen' AKA 'Ryusei' Height 4-6 feet, depending on staking; width 3-4 feet. Unique, extremely cascading form. Can be trained to a desired height, or allowed to weep over a wall or deck, where it can trail up to 20 feet. Likes sun. Bright green foliage in summer. Spectacular fall color—bright red over golden-orange base.

'Shaina' Very slow-growing dwarf shrub or rounded tree. Height 4-6 feet. A dwarf, compact sport of 'Bloodgood'. Becomes dense with maturity. Deep red leaves turn crimson in fall.

'Shin deshojo' Slow-growing, spreading tree. Height 4-6 feet; width 4-6 feet. Flaming scarlet new foliage turns reddish green in summer. Red and orange fall color. Good bonsai subject.

'Shishigashira' Immediately recognizable due to its tight habit and crinkled foliage. Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 4-6 feet; width 2-3 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Bright green leaves turn orange in fall. Among the very last Japanese maples to change colors and drop its leaves. Good patio tree or bonsai.

ACER PALMATUM SMALL VARIETIES (8-15 FEET)

'Atrolineare' (WILLOWLEAF JAPANESE MAPLE) Slow-growing, vase-like tree. Height 10-12 feet; width 8-10 feet. Narrow leaves are dark, black-red, turning bronze later. Fall color is bright red. Outstanding specimen tree.

'Beni shi-en' (RED SMOKE JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium-growing, upright tree. Height 8-12 feet; width 4-6 feet. Hardy to 0°F. Deeply divided leaves emerge rosy red, turning purple, then to medium green with light green midrib. Pinkish hues in late summer turn golden in fall.

'Emperor I' (AKA 'Red Emperor') Medium-growing, open, airy tree. Height 12-15 feet; width 8-12 feet. Likes sun to part shade. Hardy to -20°F. Similar to 'Bloodgood' but holds its red foliage color better into late summer. Crimson in fall.

'Fireglow' Slow-growing, vase-like tree. Height 12-15 feet; width 10-12 feet. Scarlet new foliage turns to dark wine-red for the summer; leaves hold color well. Crimson and red fall color.

'Japanese Sunrise' Medium-growing, upright tree. Height 12-14 feet; width 8-12 feet. Sun or part shade. Showy red to yellow stems and bark. In general, 'Japanese Sunrise's' bark is a truer coral than 'Sango kaku's'. Green foliage in summer; butterscotch yellow fall color. Fall color is best when tree is grown in full sun.

'Katsura' Slow-growing, rounded tree. Height and width 10 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Fantastic soft yellow and orange new growth turns green in summer, yellow and orange edged red in fall. Does well in containers.

'Kurui jishi' Slow-growing upright tree. Height 8-10 feet; width 4-6 feet. Hardy to 0°F. Deep green star-shaped leaves turn yellow in fall. Edges of leaves curl upwards.

'Osakazuki no akame' (DWARF FLAME-LEAF JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium-growing upright tree. Height 12-20 feet; width 10-20 feet. Sun or part shade. Rich green in spring and summer—intense crimson fall color. More compact form of 'Osakazuki'.

'Purple Ghost' Medium-growing tree. Height 10-12 feet. Sun or part shade. Purple leaves with black veins. Fall color is fiery scarlet and orange.

'Suminagashi' Medium-growing vase-like tree. Height 8-10 feet; width 3-5 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Bright purple-red in spring, becoming very deep maroon, then crimson in fall. Small red flowers followed by red samaras (keys).

'Tobiosho' (ISELI'S RED JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium growing upright tree. Height 12-15 feet—width 6-8 feet. Dense foliage canopy—spectacular fall display. Green foliage turns gold, orange, and red in turn, ending vivid scarlet. Fall color best when tree is grown in full sun.

'Tsuma Gaki' Height 8-10 feet; width 4-5 feet. Likes partial shade. Yellow green leaves with purple tips. Yellow/crimson fall color.

'Twombly's Red Sentinel' Medium-growing columnar tree. Height 8-14 feet—spread 6-10 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Deep red leaves; bright red fall color.

'Ukigumo' (FLOATING CLOUD JAPANESE MAPLE) Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 8-12 feet; width 4-6 feet. Beautiful landscape specimen—foliage is pastel green touched with pink and white. Variegation varies from year to year; plant tends to be paler in shade. Fall color is apricot to gold. Does well in containers. **Protect from hot sun to prevent sunburn.**

ACER PALMATUM MEDIUM VARIETIES (15+ FEET)

'Bloodgood' Medium-growing, vase-like tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 15-18 feet. Bright red samaras (keys). Excellent dark-red leaf color all summer. Good fall color, usually crimson. Very popular cultivar.

'Herbstfeuer' Medium-growing, vase-like tree. Height 15-20 feet. Possibly a hybrid between Japanese maple and vine maple; broad leaves like vine maple. Chartreuse new foliage on bright red petioles, turning mid green in summer. Spectacular orange to fire engine red fall color; name means “autumn fire.”

'Iijima-sunago' (SPRINKLED SAND JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium-growing, upright tree. Height 15-25 feet; width 10-15 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to -10°F. New leaves orange-red, turning purple-brown with green “sprinkles.” Good orange, red, and yellow fall color.

'Osakazuki' (FLAME-LEAF JAPANESE MAPLE) Fast growing upright tree. Height 15-25 feet; width 10-20 feet. Rich green in spring and summer—intense crimson fall color. The best for autumn display! Does well in containers.

'Oshio beni' Medium-growing, vase-like tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 6-12 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to -10°F. New growth bright green, becoming bronze to dull reddish-green. Autumn color bright scarlet. Does well in containers. Protect from hot sun.

'Sango kaku' (CORAL BARK JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium-growing, vase-like tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 8-12 feet. Sun or part shade (although bark color is better in sun). Light green leaf turning gold with light red in fall. Coral bark is striking in winter (bark color fades as tree ages). Does well in containers.

'Trompenburg' Fast growing upright tree. Height 15-25 feet; width 12-15 feet. Hardy to 0°F. Glossy deep red-purple leaves take full sun. Leaf edges curl downward. Small red flowers in spring. Scarlet fall color.

OTHER JAPANESE MAPLE SPECIES

***Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium' (FERNLEAF FULL MOON MAPLE)** Slow-growing, rounded tree. Height and width 10-12 feet. Sun or part shade. Prominent white and maroon flower in spring. Deeply cut leaves. Excellent scarlet fall color. Does well in containers.

***A. japonicum* 'Emmett's Pumpkin'** Slow-growing, rounded shrub/tree. Height 6 feet, width 4 feet. Tangerine new foliage turns green blushed red; pumpkin orange fall color.

***A. japonicum* 'Fairy Lights'** Slow-growing, dwarf variety. Height 5 feet; width 4 feet. Part sun. Extremely dissected green foliage. Intense red, yellow and orange fall color. Great in small gardens and containers.

***A. japonicum* 'Indian Summer'** Height 8-10 feet. Very large palmate leaves are dark green. Pink-flushed new growth; fall color is bright yellow overlaid with reds and oranges.

***A. japonicum* 'Otaki'** Slow-growing, rounded tree. Height and width 15-20 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to -10°F. Rich green foliage—almost blue green in shade. Good fall color—crimson, gold and orange.

***Acer japonicum* 'Vitifolium' (GRAPE-LEAF JAPANESE MAPLE)** Medium-growing rounded tree. Height and width 15-20 feet. Likes partial shade. Large rich green leaves. Good fall color—gold and scarlet. Does well in containers. **Likes afternoon shade.**

***Acer shirasawanum* 'Aureum' (GOLDEN FULL MOON MAPLE)** Medium-growing rounded tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 12-15 feet. Part shade. Yellow leaves all summer. Fall colors are orange through red, sometimes purple. Does well in containers. **Protect from hot sun.**

***A. shirasawanum* 'Autumn Moon'** Medium-growing rounded tree. Height 8-10 feet; width 6-8 feet. Sun or part shade. Yellow leaves flush rose in the summer, turning peachy orange in fall. **Protect from hot sun.**

***A. x pseudosieboldianum* 'Final Fire'** Medium-growing upright tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 10-15 feet. Sun or part shade. Cold hardy to -10°F; great for colder locations. Spring foliage is shades of pink, green, and yellow, turning green with red accents in summer. Spectacular fall show—foliage turns orange, then wine red, and finishes fire engine red.