Japanese Maple List Fall 2026

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 Happy Frog Japanese Maple fertilizer or an all-purpose organic 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. Dark red leaves all summer—bright scarlet in fall. Most popular laceleaf variety.

'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.

'Scarlet Princess' aka 'Ash's Scarlet Princess' Height 3-4 feet. Wonderful dwarf dissectum; foliage emerges pinkish red, turns red; holds color well through summer. phGorgeous red fall color. Dense, compact form.

'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.

'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 VARIETIES

'Amagi shigure' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 5-6 feet; width 3-4 feet. Part shade. Wonderful foliage emerges bright pink, and turns red/purple with dark veins and edges. In fall, turns orange and purple.

'Aoyagi' AKA 'Ukon' Slow-growing, spreading tree. Height and width 8-10 feet. Hardy to 0°F. Yellow new growth turns bright green in summer. Deep yellow to gold in fall. Pea green bark.

'Arakawa' (PINE BARK or ROUGH BARK JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium-growing upright tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 10-15 feet. Hardy to -5°F. Green leaves turn bright yellow-gold in fall, sometimes overlaid with scarlet. Rough bark turns corky with age.

'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 hime' Slow-growing, bushy tree. Height 3-4 feet; width 2-3 feet. Full sun. Pink to rusty red star-shaped leaves turn vibrant red in fall. Great bonsai subject. Does well in containers.

'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.

'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.

'Bonfire' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 10-12 feet; width 6-7 feet. Crimson new growth turning green in summer. Showy flame-red fall color.

'Butterfly' Slow-growing, vase-like, often stiffly upright tree. Height 5-7 feet; width 3-5 feet. Hardy to -5°F. Dainty tree with cream and pale green variegation—in fall, white turns magenta. Does well in containers. **Protect from hot sun.**

'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.

'Fairy Hair' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 2 feet; width 1 foot. Sun or part shade. Extremely narrow, long green foliage. Orange fall color. Does well in containers.

'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.

'Gable Glory' (CHAMELEON MAPLE) Medium growing upright tree. Height 10-15 feet—width 6-10 feet. Best in part shade. New growth is bright orange-red to pink-red, with the color holding up to 8 weeks. Color stays most vivid if tree is in afternoon shade. Foliage changes color all summer, red to bronze-red to yellow. Orange-red fall color. Bark is yellowish-orange. A colorful plant all year round!

'Geisha Gone Wild' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 6 feet; width 3 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to -10°F. Leaves are purple-pink, green, and white. Fall color is purple-orange.

'Hana Tsukasa' Slow-growing, open, wispy tree. Height 8-10 feet. Beautiful multi-hued foliage. Foliage emerges pink, develops green centers then creamy white margins. Red to orange fall color. **Protect from hot afternoon sun.**

'Hupp's Red Willow' (AKA 'Hubb's Red Willow') Slow growing vase like tree. Height 6-7 feet; width 5-6 feet. Filtered sun or part shade. Hardy to -20°F. Dense and twiggy growth. Strap-like red leaves hold color well. Good fall color. Does well in containers.

'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.

'Ki hachijo' Medium-growing rounded tree. Height 10-12 feet; width 8-10 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to -10°F. Bright green leaves become gold with rosy tones in fall. As tree ages, bark becomes streaked with white.

'Koto maru' Slow-growing, dense, upright shrub. Height 4-6 feet. Tiny foliage emerges lime-green edged with red, turns deeper green in summer. Orange-red fall color.

'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.

'Lileeanne's Jewel' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 4-6 feet; width 3-4 feet. Deeply divided leaves open cherry red and white, then turn shades of green, blue, pink, and white for the summer. Fall color is variegated crimson and hot pink.

'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.

'Manyo no sato' Slow-growing vaselike tree. Height 6-7 feet; width 4-5 feet. Hardy to -20°F. Variegated green and purple foliage turns orange and purple in fall. Very striking.

'Metamorphosa' Slow growing shrubby form. Height 5-13 feet; width 3-10 feet. Named for its everchanging foliage color show. New growth emerges pale yellow, develops pink margins, then shifts to white or green with tones of reddish orange. Fall color starts orange-red and turns to red-violet.

'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.

'Mikazuki' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 7-8 feet; width 3-4 feet. Lovely variegated form—pink blushed over white with green veins. Bright orange with green veins in fall.

'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.

'Olsen's Frosted Strawberry' Height 6-8 feet; width 4-6 feet. Likes partial shade. Hardy to -10°F. Deeply divided leaves emerge strawberry red, pale to pink or silvery white with green speckles and red veins and petioles. Crimson red fall color.

‘Orange Dream’ Vigorous-growing, upright tree. Height 12-15 feet—spread 8-10 feet. Sun or part shade. Bright orange new growth turns lemon-yellow tipped with red. Slowly turns to yellow green in summer, then bright yellow-gold in fall.

‘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!

‘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’.

‘Peve Starfish’ Slow growing upright tree. Height 6-8 feet. Very unusual red foliage is elongated and cups downward. New growth emerges bright red, turns maroon in summer, and crimson red in fall.

‘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.

‘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.

‘Rhode Island Red’ Medium-growing, upright tree. Height 10-12 feet; width 6-10 feet. Hardy to 0°F. Bright red in spring, purple red in summer, fiery red in fall.

‘Ruby Stars’ AKA ‘Beni hoshi’ Slow-growing, rounded tree. Height 4-5 feet—spread 3-4 feet. Star-shaped leaves. New foliage emerges ruby red—contrasts with green older foliage. Gold and crimson fall color. Good container plant.

‘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.

‘Sango kaku’ (CORAL BARK JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium-growing, vase-like tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 8-12 feet. Sun or part shade (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).

‘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.

'Sister Ghost' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 6-8 feet; width 3-4 feet. Likes part shade. Hardy to -20°F. Leaves start out creamy yellow-green blushed pink with prominent dark veins; foliage darkens over the summer. Yellow brushed with oranges and reds in fall.

'Skeeter's Broom' Slow-growing, narrowly upright tree. Height 4-5 feet; width 3-4 feet. Likes sun. Bright red foliage turns purple-red; holds color well through the summer. Rich red fall color. Excellent patio plant or bonsai.

'Summer Gold' Medium growing tree. Height 8-12 feet. Three shades of yellow through the seasons: chartreuse new growth, palmate summer foliage is gold, bright yellow fall color. Red twigs and branches highlight the yellow foliage. Excellent yellow maple for a sunny spot.

'Taro Yama' Height 3-4 feet. Very dwarf upright tree. Small leaves emerge light green, sometimes touched with rose. Mid green in summer, bright red fall color.

'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.

'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. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. 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. **Protect from hot sun to prevent sunburn.**

'Uzen Nishiki' Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 8-10 feet; width 4-6 feet. Foliage opens green edged with pink or purple, with pink and white interior variegation which spreads as the leaf ages. Fall color is orange and yellow. **Protect from hot sun to prevent sunburn.**

'Wakehurst Pink' Height 8-10 feet. Striking bright pink foliage in spring. Summer foliage olive and bronze. Fiery red fall color.

'Wildfire' Height 10-15 feet. Foliage emerges chartreuse, turning gold in summer, bright gold to orange to red in fall. Winter bark is all the shades of fire: base is bright yellow to golden, shading to orange, to blazing red on the outer branches and twigs.

'Yezo nishiki' Slow-growing, vaselike tree. Height 8-10 feet; width 4-5 feet. Hardy to -20°F. Leaves emerge rich, bright reddish-puple, deepening into red bronze in summer. Fall tones are vivid shades of scarlet and crimson.

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.

***Acer japonicum* 'Attaryi'** Medium-growing open-form tree. Height 8-10 feet; spread 10-14 feet. Medium green leaves in summer. Fall color bright red tinged with oranges and yellow.

***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* 'Rising Sun'** Slow-growing, rounded tree. Height and width 12-15 feet. Hardy to 0°F. Very large full leaves—up to 8 inches across. Excellent red, orange, and yellow fall color.

***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.**

***Acer shirasawanum* 'Red Dawn'** Medium-growing, upright tree. Height 10-12 feet, spread 5-6 feet. Foliage opens bright red accented with white pubescence, turning maroon red in summer, crimson in fall. May be a hybrid between *A. shirasawanum* and *A. palmatum*.

JAPANESE MAPLE HYBRIDS

***A. x pseudosieboldianum* 'Arctic Gold'** Medium-growing upright tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 10-15 feet. Three seasons of gold! New foliage is chartreuse and gold, maturing to gold in summer and orange-gold to bright red in fall.

***A. x pseudosieboldianum* 'Final Fire'** Medium-growing upright tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 10-15 feet. Spring foliage is pink, green, and yellow, turning in summer to green with red accents. Spectacular fall show—foliage turns to orange, then wine, and finally fire engine red.

***A. x pseudosieboldianum* 'First Flame'** Medium-growing upright tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 10-15 feet. Sun or part shade. Spectacular spring color: small, star shaped leaves open bright red-orange with yellow veins, turning to orange and yellow, then to green with hints of red in summer. Red, orange, and yellow fall color.

***A. x pseudosieboldianum* 'North Wind'** Medium-growing upright tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 10-15 feet. Sun or part shade. Large palmate leaves emerge reddish, then turn green. Showy pink samaras (keys) contrast nicely with foliage. Orange and scarlet fall color.