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 will 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 cultivars of the new hybrid *Acer x pseudosieboldianum*.

**ACER PALMATUM DISSECTUM (LACELEAF) VARIETIES**

*Acer palmatum dissectum* (JAPANESE LACELEAF MAPLE) In general, Japanese laceleaf maples are slow-growing, mounding or cascading small trees with finely dissected foliage. They do very well in containers.

*‘Baldsmith’* Height 5-6 feet; width 5-8 feet. Sun or part shade. Apricot-salmon new growth turns to green flushed with pink. Very beautiful red-orange fall color.
‘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.

‘Germaine’s Cyration’ Height 3-4 feet; width 4-6 feet. Sun or part shade. Darker green leaves, vigorous twisted branches. Yellow and red-gold in fall. Beautiful winter branching.

‘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.

‘Octopus’ Height 4-6 feet; width 6-8 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to -5°F. Vigorous grower with red leaves turning purplish in the 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.

‘Red Filigree Lace’ Height 6-8 feet; width 4-5 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to -5°F. Slow growing, small vase-shaped tree. Perhaps most finely dissected leaves of any variety. Deep purple-red turning light crimson in fall.

‘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. Wonderful landscape specimen.

‘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. Sun or part shade. Green foliage, darker than ‘Viridis.’ Gold streaked with red-orange in fall.

ACER PALMATUM SHRUBBY & DWARF VARIETIES (UNDER 8 FEET)

‘Aka kawa hime’ (DWARF CORAL BARK MAPLE) Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 6-8 feet. Likes sun or part shade. A compact form of ‘Sango Kaku’. Lime green leave turn gold and orange in fall. Coral bark is striking in winter.

‘Akane’ Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 6-8 feet; width 4-5 feet. Sun or part shade. Foliage is apricot edged red in spring, turning yellow-green in summer. Orange fall color.

‘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.
‘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.

‘Butterfly’ Slow-growing, vase-like, often stiffly upright tree. Height 5-7 feet; width 3-5 feet. Sun or part shade. 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.

‘Chitoseyama’ Slow-growing, cascading tree. Height 7-8 feet; width 6-7 feet. Likes sun to part shade. Brownish foliage with pink overtones. Nice light crimson fall color.

‘Englishtown’ Slow-growing, dense, upright shrub. Height 3 feet; width 2 feet. Sun or part shade. Tiny red leaves; color persists through summer. Bright red fall color.

‘Kamagata’ Slow-growing, vasilike tree. Height 3-4 feet; width 3-4 feet. Sun or part shade. 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.

‘Kandy Kitchen’ Slow-growing, vasilike tree. Height 5-7 feet; spread 4-5 feet. Likes sun to part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Good dark red color holds well on this dwarf tree. Scarlet fall color; red bark on young branches.

‘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. Sun or part shade. Very dense and compact. Leaves overlay each other like shingles on a roof, but curling. Leaves are bright red in spring, darkening then turning green in summer, red again in fall. Contrasting bark is bright green. Excellent bonsai subject.

‘Lileeanne's Jewel’ AKA Li'l Anne's Jewel Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 4-6 feet; width 3-4 feet. Deeply divided leaves are spectacularly variegated. They 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.

‘Mikawa yatsubusa’ (MIKAWA DWARF JAPANESE MAPLE) Slow-growing, mounding tree. Height 4-5 feet; width 3-4 feet. Sun or part shade. 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.

‘O Jishi’ (COMPACT LION JAPANESE MAPLE) Slow-growing, vase like tree. Height 6-8 feet—spread 4-5 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to -5° F. Uncommon variety; like a dense, compact ‘Shishigashira’. Orange fall color.

‘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.

‘Shin-deshojo’ Slow-growing, spreading tree. Height 4-6 feet; width 4-6 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Flaming scarlet new foliage turns reddish green in summer. Red and orange fall color. Good bonsai subject and good in containers.

‘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.

‘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.

‘Winter Flame’ Slow-growing, bushy tree. Like a smaller (7 – 9 feet) ‘Sango kaku’—striking coral bark in winter. Foliage opens lime green, turns mid-green for summer. Fall color a mix of golden yellow, orange, and red.

‘Winter Gold’ Height 6-8 feet, width 8-10 feet. Chartreuse to gold bark is very dramatic in winter. Finely dissected bright green leaves. New growth is flushed red; fall color is bright gold to orange.

**ACER PALMATUM SMALL VARIETIES (8-15 FEET)**

‘Amber Ghost’ Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 8-12 feet; width 8-10 feet. Likes part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Most vigorous of the ‘Ghost’ series. Leaves start out red, fading to amber before taking on more green tones with distinctive veins. Bright orange-and-red fall color.

‘Ariadne’ Slow-growing, vase-like tree. Height 8-10 feet; width 8-10 feet. Sun or part shade. Leaves open soft peachy red with a marbled background, mature into red veins on purple-red background. Fall color is peachy orange with dark-pink to red margins.

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

‘Baby Ghost’ Medium-growing, upright tree. Height 10-14 feet; width 8-12 feet. Likes sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Leaves variegated pink and purple over a light green base. Distinctive veins. Bright orange and red fall color.

‘Beni Maiko’ (RED DANCER JAPANESE MAPLE) Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 8-12 feet; width 4-5 feet. Sun or part shade. Brilliant, bushy small tree. New leaves fiery scarlet, turning pinkish red, then green with red veins. Luminous pinkish-red fall color.
‘Fireglow’ Slow-growing, vase-like tree. Height 12-15 feet; width 10-12 feet. Sun or part shade. Scarlet new foliage turns to dark wine-red for the summer; leaves hold color well. Crimson and red fall color.

‘Higasayama’ Slow-growing, upright tree. Height 10-12 feet—spread 6-8 feet. Likes sun or part shade. Spectacular when cream-sheathed crimson buds open; leaf color and shape change dramatically through the season.

‘Hogyoku’ Medium-growing upright tree. Height 12-15 feet; width 6-9 feet. Likes sun to part shade. Round bright green leaves. Pumpkin orange in fall!

‘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.

‘Killarney’ Height 6-10 feet. Very unusual form; branches grow upright then weep at top, giving the tree a vase-like, almost flat-topped form. Green foliage with red margins. Red, pink, and orange fall color. Very sun-hardy.

‘Moonfire’ Medium-growing upright to rounded tree. Height 10-15 feet; width 10-12 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Deep purple-red—holds its color well. Small red flowers in spring followed by red samaras (keys). Delightful crimson 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.

‘Ornatum’ Height and width to 12 feet. Sun or part shade. Lacy light foliage emerges an outstanding bright bronze-red. Matures to green in summer, then turns crimson-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.

‘Shirazz’ Slow-growing tree is upright when young, becomes gracefully arching with age. Height 10-15 feet; width 8-10 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Multi-colored leaves display blends of pink, green, and creamy white. Fall colors are tones of crimson to scarlet.

‘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).
‘Summer Gold’ Medium growing tree. Height 8-12 feet. Sun or partial shade. Three shades of yellow over the seasons: new growth is chartreuse, in summer the palmate foliage turns golden yellow, in fall bright yellow. Red twigs and branches highlight the yellow foliage color. Excellent yellow maple for a sunny spot.

‘Tobiosho’ (ISELI’S RED JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium growing upright tree. Height 12-15 feet—width 6-8 feet. Sun or part shade. Dense canopy of green leaves—spectacular fall display. Foliage turns gold, orange, and red in turn, ending pure vivid scarlet. Fall color is best when tree is grown in full sun.

‘Tsukushigata’ Medium-growing rounded tree. Height 10-12 feet; width 6-8 feet. Likes sun. Leaves emerge shining purple, becoming dull purple in summer and crimson in fall. Does well in containers. Leaves turn green in shade.

‘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. 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.

‘Ukon’ AKA ‘Aoyagi’ Slow-growing, spreading tree. Height and width 8-10 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Yellow spring growth turns bright green in summer. Deep yellow to gold in fall. Pea green bark in winter.

‘Villa Taranto’ Slow-growing, moundiing tree. Height 12-15 feet; width 12-15 feet. Sun or part shade. Wonderful ornamental tree. Foliage emerges reddish purple, turns green with reddish shading in summer, orange-gold in fall.

ACER PALMATUM MEDIUM VARIETIES (15+ FEET)

‘Arakawa’ (PINE BARK or ROUGH BARK JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium-growing upright tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 10-15 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to -5°F. Green leaves turn yellow in fall. Rough bark turns corky with age.

‘Beni Kawa’ (RED BARK JAPANESE MAPLE) Medium-growing rounded tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 12-15 feet. Likes sun. Green leaves in summer; yellow fall color. Winter bark is purer red than Coral bark Maple—colors at a younger age. Does well in containers.


‘Glowing Embers’ Medium-growing vase-like tree. Height 15-18 feet; width 12-14 feet. Sun or part shade. Tolerates heat better than most varieties. Dark green foliage turns all the shades of fire in fall—purple, red, fluorescent orange, and yellow, sometimes all on one branch.

‘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.


‘Tsukasa Silhouette’ Medium-growing columnar tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 4-5 feet. Sun or part shade. Lime green in spring turning bright green, then brilliant red in fall.

OTHER JAPANESE MAPLE SPECIES


A. japonicum ‘Emmett’s Pumpkin’ Slow-growing, rounded shrub/tree. Height 6 feet, width 4 feet. Sun or part shade. Tangerine new foliage turns green blushed red; orange fall color. Does well in containers.

A. japonicum ‘Gossamer’ Slow-growing shrub. May be a cross between A. japonicum and A. palmatum. Height 3-5 feet; width 2-3 feet. Sun or part shade. Very finely divided green leaves. Orange, gold, and red fall color. Rare and choice variety.

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 ‘Rising Sun’ Slow-growing, rounded tree. Height and width 12-15 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to 0°F. Very large full leaves—up to 8 inches across. Excellent red, orange, and yellow fall color. Does well in containers.


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. shirasawanum 'Kawaii'** Slow-growing, dwarf spreading tree. Height 1-2 feet. This variety is like a small-leafed laceleaf maple. Foliage opens orange, turns plum red in the summer, then brilliant red to deep orange in fall. Does well in containers.

**A. shirasawanum 'Moonrise'** Medium-growing rounded tree. Height 15-18 feet; width 15-20 feet. Sun or part shade. Bright red foliage in spring turns lime-green in summer in the shade, yellow in full sun. Red and yellow fall color.

**JAPANESE MAPLE HYBRIDS**

*Acer x pseudosieboldianum* cultivars are crosses between *Acer palmatum* and the Korean maple, *Acer pseudosieboldianum*. They combine the ornamental properties of the Japanese maple with the tolerance to extremes of cold and heat exhibited by the Korean maple. Trees in the Jack Frost® series, in particular, are all hardy to -30°F and are recommended for eastern Washington, the mountains, and those in cold, exposed microclimates.

**Acer x pseudosieboldianum 'Final Fire'** Medium-growing upright tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 10-15 feet. Sun or part shade. Hardy to -20°F. New foliage emerges pastel shades of yellow, green, and pink, turning green in summer. Spectacular fall foliage starts orange, turning wine red 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. Hardy to -20°F. Small star-shaped leaves emerge as a hot red-orange, turning orange and yellow, then to green flushed with red. Bright red fall color.

**JACK FROST® COLLECTION: HARDY TO -30°F**

**A. x pseudosieboldianum 'Arctic Jade'** Medium-growing upright tree. Height 15-20 feet; width 10-15 feet. Sun or part shade. Large, deeply cut leaves are jade green in summer. Orange and red fall tones.

**A. x pseudosieboldianum 'Ice Dragon'** Smallest of the Jack Frost® series, with its laceleaf ancestor's cascading habit and finely divided foliage. Height 8 feet; width 10 feet. Sun or part shade. Foliage opens pink and orange, maturing to green. Yellow, orange, and red 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.