



# Japanese Maple



## A plant for all seasons

Japanese Maples are amongst the most entrancing trees to use in the landscape. The texture of the leaves varies from strongly broadleaf to the most delicate of lace. New emerging leaves in spring may be soft fresh green, bronzy-purple, pink or glistening red. By the end of spring the first flush of leaves will have matured to varying tints of green or dark burgundy. The autumn display is truly spectacular with summer colours shifting to remarkable tones of yellow, orange, red, scarlet and crimson. The stark outline of the bare branches provides structure and drama to the winter garden. With such diversity in form and colour from plant to plant and throughout the seasons, Japanese Maples have much to offer to all gardens!

## A Maple's Requirements

- Japanese Maples like loose, well-aerated, acidic soil that drains well.
- They dislike 'wet-feet' so ensure that they are not planted in areas where water stands for more than a few minutes.
- Maples enjoy a cool, moist climate with ample rainfall in spring and summer and a planting position sheltered from strong winds.

## Mulching

- Japanese Maples will benefit from a 2.5-5cm (1-2") layer of mulch applied away from the trunk and as far as the dripline of the branches. This treatment will keep the roots cool and moist during hot dry spells. Use finely shredded bark mulch, leaf mould, or pine needles. Reapply annually.



## Pruning Particulars

- Japanese Maples have such a beautiful, natural form that they seldom require pruning except to remove weak or damaged branches. However, if pruning is a necessity do it in late fall or early winter when the plant is completely dormant.

## Light

- Japanese Maples grow well in a broad range of light conditions from full sun to light shade.
- Broadleaf Japanese Maples appreciate full sun as long as moisture levels are kept consistent during summer and early fall.
- Weeping Japanese Maples with their delicate leaves prefer protection from full sun and windy locations. However, they can be grown successfully in full sun by providing adequate moisture during the summer months.

## Fertilizing

- A Japanese Maple's roots develop a symbiotic relationship with a particular fungi, forming underground structures called mycorrhizae. The fungi assists the Maple in the uptake of nutrients. Fertilizing may reduce the mycorrhizal population destroying this relationship. So fertilize your Maple sparingly if at all. An exception to this would be Japanese Maples grown in containers where nutrients are leached away with constant watering.

## Uses in the Landscape

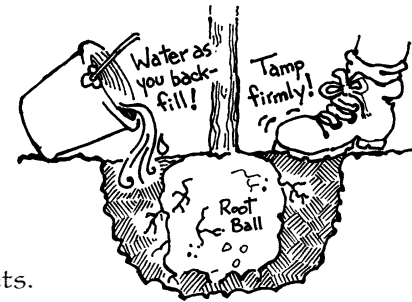
1. Woodland gardens benefit from a few carefully chosen Japanese Maples planted in a group to create a grove.
2. Because of their relatively small size and bold colour Japanese Maples make excellent feature trees in the lawn.
3. Japanese Maples make a delightful canopy over shade beds planted with Hostas, Ferns, Wild Gingers (Asarum), Epimediums, Hellebores, Heucheras, Tiarellas, and many other shade loving plants.
4. Weeping Japanese Maples are superb accents near ponds and other water features as well as in Oriental style gardens or rockeries.
5. A dwarf Weeping Maple planted in a decorative ceramic pot, underplanted with shade loving annuals will brighten a shady entryway, balcony or patio.
6. Deep red-burgundy Japanese Maples such as 'Bloodgood' planted against a green background such as Cedar hedge change a somewhat humdrum view into a visual delight.
7. Japanese Maples make perfect partners or background plants for Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Pieris, Kalmia and many others.

# Japanese Maples in Containers

- If you grow Japanese Maples in ornamental containers make sure that the pot is appropriate to the type of Maple. For example, small Weeping Maples don't require a huge container though it should still be large enough to accommodate future growth.
- Larger growing upright Maples need a big, stout container with at least the capacity (though not necessarily the shape) of a "half-barrel".
- Use a good, well-draining planter box mix enriched with landscape soil and make sure your pot has good drainage holes.
- Feed occasionally with 20-20-20 water soluble fertilizer or 14-14-14 slow release granular fertilizer and water regularly especially during the summer. Never let the soil dry out completely.

## Planting

- Water the Maple well before planting.
- Dig your planting hole a little wider and deeper than the rootball of the plant.
- Mix 1 part Soil Energizer, Peat Moss or Manure with 3 parts soil dug from the planting hole and throw in a couple of shovelfuls of shredded bark mulch to help with soil aeration.
- Incorporate a good handful or two of bonemeal to the above mixture and/or soak the rootball in 'Transplanter' solution according to package directions.
- Place rootball in the planting hole with the top even with the surrounding soil surface.
- Replace amended backfill halfway up the hole and tamp down gently to remove air pockets.
- Water once and then add the rest of the backfill, tamp down gently when the hole is filled and water again.



## Grafting

- Some of our Weeping Maples have been designed by grafting to maintain certain heights and forms. These Maples will not grow much above their grafts but the branches will lengthen creating beautiful mushroom shapes or low mounds depending on the location of the graft on the trunk. (Ask us to show you.)



## Other Maples

- Vine Maples (*Acer circinatum*)-Native to the Pacific Northwest. Clusters of white flowers with deep red sepals develop into red winged seed heads. Green leaves of summer become tinted orange, red and yellow as fall approaches colouring sooner than other Maples. Excellent for woodland gardens, forest edge or streamside. Height 5-6m (15-20'). Spread 3-5m (12-15').
- Paper Bark Maple (*Acer griseum*)-Dark green leaves with light grey-green undersides become a spectacular melange of orange, red and yellow in the fall. Papery strips of cinnamon coloured bark peel back to reveal copper-coloured bark beneath. A beautiful specimen tree for any garden. Height 6-10m (20-30'). Spread 5-6m (15-20').
- Red Sunset Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Red Sunset')- Clusters of showy red flowers appear before the leaves in early spring. Lustrous dark green leaves of summer change to brilliant red and orange-red in fall. Superb specimen tree for lawn, park or street. Height 15m (45'). Spread 8m (25').
- Golden Fullmoon Maple (*Acer shirasawanum* 'Aureum')- Rounded sharply-toothed leaves are golden-yellow when unfolding becoming light greenish yellow in summer and tinted with orange in fall. Keeps its colour best in light shade. Excellent for patio containers when small and woodland or Asian gardens. Height 5-6m (15-20') and as wide.
- Manchurian Striped Maple (*Acer tegmentosum*)- Splendid 'snakebark' Maple displaying awesome green and white striped bark. Rich green leaves of summer shift to golden yellow before dropping in fall. Fine specimen tree or addition to woodland garden. Height 6-9m (20-30'). Spread 6-9m (20-30').
- Flame Amur Maple (*Acer ginnala* 'Flame')-Hardy and adaptable Maple with three-lobed rich green leaves that change to fiery red in autumn. Creamy-white flowers appear with the leaves in spring developing into clusters of winged seed pods that turn a handsome red by late summer. A fine choice for small street or lawn tree and for difficult sites. Height and spread 5-6m (15-20').



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