

Japanese Maples

Acer Palmatum

Deciduous shrub or tree, native to Japan and Korea. Very ornamental plant with lots of landscape value. Slow growing to 20' in height. The most delicate and airy looking of the maple family. These plants have year round interest: the new young growth in the spring will have glowing red leaves turning soft green in the summer; their fall color is anywhere in the color spectrum of yellow to red to orange; the slender bare branches in the winter offer very interesting patterns. The grafted named cultivars are very popular but the common seedling varieties are also still very much in demand. The grafted garden varieties generally are smaller and slower growing than the seedling forms. The common seedling varieties are generally more sun, wind and drought tolerant. Japanese maples generally thrive anywhere in the Pacific Northwest. The seedling maples are more rugged and faster growing than the grafted varieties. Seedling varieties of Acer palmatum can vary in leaf color and size and each one may be slightly different.

Maples can be used very effectively on the north or east walls, in patios and entryways or as small lawn trees. They are very attractive in groves when using several different varieties and planted with varying spacing. Invaluable in tubs and as bonsai specimens. Ideal for Japanese gardens, around pools and along water gardens.

Some of the better known cultivars are:

‘**Atropurpureum**’: Red Japanese maple with purplish to bronzy green leaves, deeper colored when grown in the full sun. Will hold its color throughout the summer. Strong growing tree reaching easily 15-20' tall. The red color varies between these seedlings. Some colors are truer than others.

‘**Beni Schihenge**’: The outstanding feature of this cultivar is the coloration in the variegated leaves. Similar to Butterfly but the markings are orange rather than pink. Basic coloration is green with strong white margins. The white is overlaid with pinkish orange. Tend to be twiggy and may only reach 6-8' tall.

‘**Bloodgood**’: Vigorous upright growth to 15'. Deep-red foliage in the spring and summer turning to scarlet in the fall. Bark is blackish red. This is one of the more popular large leaved tree forms. Light shining through the leaves on a bright day makes for a beautiful red effect. Very good hardy variety.

‘**Boskoop Glory**’: Vigorous upright growing tree with red leaves that take the hot sun! Mature height will reach to 20' tall. Red fall color.

‘**Bonfire**’: Spring foliage is brilliant scarlet with fall color turning to crimson. Twisted trunk, short branches and drooping branchlets. Small upright tree to 12' tall.

‘**Burgundy Lace**’: This is a striking group from the ribbon leaf maples. Leaf coloration is similar to burgundy wine; spring and summer coloration is typical burgundy red, as the season progresses it becomes bronzy in color. Spreading type of tree, reaching 10-12' tall and as wide of a canopy. Hardy and beautiful, it can still fit in a small landscape with pruning.

‘**Butterfly**’: Shrub to small tree. Will only grow to about 7 - 10'. Small bluish green leaves edged in white with sometimes a pink tinge or variegation.

‘**Chitoseyama**’: Plant is a cascading type with deeply divided leaves. The leaves are purplish red then turn bronzy green in the summer. Fall colors are bright crimson. Mature plant can be as wide as it is tall.

‘**Coonara Pygmy**’: A dwarf bonsai type of plant. Leaves are small and grown on a round plant. Fall color is quite brilliant ranging in orange to flame in color. This plant performs quite well in the landscape. Requires little pruning due to its dwarf habit.

‘**Fireglow**’: A compact version of ‘Bloodgood’. The new foliage is bright red turning to purple red in the fall. Fast growing tree to about 15' at maturity.

‘**Higasayama**’: This is one of the cultivars that has unusually shaped leaves. Starting in early spring the buds unfold with leaflets pale cream tightly curled, leaf veins are bordered in dark green. Coloring is pale in early season turning to a more cream green as the season advances. In fall the cream takes on an orange to dark yellow and occasional red tone. Trees can be quite vigorous, up to 15-18' tall in maturity. Light shining through the leaves can be very pleasing to the eye.

‘**Hogyoku**’: This variety of Japanese maple is best known for its fall color, bright orange to red. Large growing tree to about 15' tall and 9' wide. Leaves also add to the summer interest of this plant. Bright shiny green, heavily textured.

‘**Kamagata**’: Outstanding dwarf green tree. Restrained elegance and grace in overall structure and habit. Small, compact tree with beautiful, small 5 lobed green leaves tinged on the edge with deep red.

‘**Katsura**’: Delightful dwarf form, as leaves develop they are pale yellow-orange. The margins are a brighter orange. As the season progresses the leaves turn a rich green. Fall colors are bright yellow and orange tones. Upright growth will quickly broaden with side branching. Generally reaching 3-5' tall. Repeated pruning will make a more compact plant.

‘**Koto No Ito**’: This cultivar approaches the linear leaf form palmatum. Leaves are green and so is the bark, densely branched plant reaching a height of 6' at maturity. Fall color ranges through various shades of yellow.

‘**Linearilobum**’: This selection of Japanese maples has distinctive, long, narrow lobes in the leaf. Green leaves are usually 7 lobed. Long, narrow, strap-like leaves ½ to 1" in width. Sometimes new shoots will have larger leaves on new growth wood, following years' growth will be typical to the cultivar. Upright growing plants up to 10-12' with maturity. Responds well to shaping and pruning. Tends to have twiggy growth.

‘**Linearilobum Atrolineare**’: One of the red forms of the linearilobum group. The foliage is dark black-red in the spring, washing out during the summer. Leaves are very narrow and string-like. Fall color is brilliant red. Upright growing, small form, quite twiggy. May reach 12-25' tall, tolerates shaping and pruning. Sometimes called a Willowleaf Maple.

‘**Nogoyoku**’: Surely this cultivar was picked for its rich deep orange fall color. Spring and summer foliage is deep, rich green. Leaves are broadly palmate with edges that are very finely serrated. New growth is thick and somewhat stubby. Tree will reach 12-15' tall with maturity. Responds well to pruning and shaping.

'Okagami': Beautiful purplish-red foliage deepens into a shiny blackish-red as the leaves mature. Strong color until late in summer when green shows through the leaves. Fall colors brighten to various shades of red and scarlet. Upright, small tree maturing at 10-12' tall.

'Okushimo' (Crispum): This Japanese maple has three outstanding features: tiny glossy leaves which curl backwards slightly, a narrow upright growth habit and unusually intense, golden fall color. A very good selection for a narrow spot in the garden.

'Oregon Dream': A rare Japanese maple cultivar to the nursery trade and of unique color and form. Narrowly upright growth habit, slow growing, large shrub to small tree. Striking orange/yellow foliage over bright green bark results in a truly different look.

'Oregon Sunset': A dwarf, flat round in shape. Leaves are dark purple, plant grows outward from the center with leaves drooping at the ends. Fall color is red.

'Osakazuki': Very famous cultivar known for its intense crimson fall color. Claimed to have the most intense coloring of all the Japanese maples. Very large leaves for a palmatum. Hardy, sturdy grower. In summer, leaves are a good rich green and do not sunburn easily. In youth fast growing then slowing to become a 12-15' round topped tree.

'Oshio Beni': New growth emerges a vibrant orange-red to red. Unfortunately it loses this color in late spring to early summer becoming more of a bronze to greenish red. Fall color is a rich scarlet.

'Orido Nishiki': One of the best variegated leaf maples. The leaves are green, white and pink with the trunk and branches also striped in red and white. Growth is upright and vigorous, up to 20' tall.

'Red Pygmy': This selection is one of the cultivars of the linearilobum group. Bright red, maroon leaves are 7 lobed with each lobes' strap-like leaf measuring 3-4" in length but only 1/4" in width. This gives a very delicate lace-like effect. Current years' wood when growth is vigorous will have leaves like that of a palmatum. Most people will prune this out thinking it is reverting. This is a mistake, next year it will produce typical cultivar foliage. Holds color well through hot summer. Older, mature plants become round topped. Plants can reach 6' tall and 4-6' wide.

'Sango Kaku': Coral bark maple. A common cultivar known for its brilliant fall color on its young stems. The color is striking but the young growth generally only holds the red color until it matures. Young leaves are tinged red turning to a light green in the summer. The fall leaves are gold with red overtones.

'Seiryu': An upright green laceleaf maple. A rapid growing tree with orange-red fall color. The tree has small green lacy leaves and the growth habit resembles a 'Sango Kaku' in the way of twiggy branching. Mature plants will be up to 12' tall.

'Shaina': This cultivar was developed as a witch's broom on an A.p. Bloodgood. Dark red leaves with center leaf lobe shorter and rounded. Relatively large leaves for a dwarf maple. The tree gives an appearance of a dense layered tree.

'Sharps Pygmy': Outstanding miniature maple. Small regular palmate leaves on a compact, densely branched, rounded shrub. Green leaves turning a deep red in the fall. One of the more attractive dwarf maples.

'Shigatsu Sawa': The leaves of this maple are reticulated with green veins and white or yellow variegation giving the plant the look of a white leaf. The leaves hold their color very well through the summer. It makes a very interesting specimen plant. Small shrub grows only to 6' tall.

'Shindeshojo': In spring one of the most brilliant foliage plants. Some refer to it as to its fire engine red, flaming scarlet is a better description. The new foliage retains its color during the first part of spring, as mid-summer arrives the color turns a reddish green. In fall the color blends of reds and orange.

'Shishigashira': Lions Head Maple. The distinct, dark green leaves on extremely short internodes give this tree a very distinctive look. Fall color is brilliant scarlet. A definite must for the dwarf garden.

'Suminagashi': The leaves are like the 'Burgundy Lace' but the plant is more vigorous. Originally imported from New Zealand. Spring color is bright purple-red, as leaves go into early summer they almost become a black red to very deep maroon. From mid-summer to fall the color gradually changes to a deep green red and brown red. Fall tones are crimson. Will reach 10-12' and is an excellent landscaping type of tree.

'Trompenburg': The leaves are deep purple red with the edge of the leaf rolling down. Will hold its color well during the summer. Coloring will turn crimson in the fall. Mature height is 15'.

'Ukigumo': Known as the floating cloud plant. The leaves are marbled with pink on green with light pastel colors. Unlike most varieties the variegation on this maple is molted. A very strong grower, will take full sun. Mature height is 6-7'.

Acer Palmatum Dissectum

Commonly known as the laceleaf maples, these grafted varieties have leaves that are finely dissected, brighter in color, more weeping and/or spreading. These plants can be low and spreading or with age or staking they can be made taller.

Following are some of the available varieties:

'Crimson Queen': New growth is bright crimson red and persists throughout most of the season. Sometimes fading to a more bronzy green.

'Eagle Claw': This green laceleaf variety is very nice and a great addition to any garden.

'Ever Red': Newly emerging leaves are covered with a silky pubescence which fades as the leaves become a deep purple red. This variety does not hold its color as well as 'Crimson Queen' and fades in the late summer into a more bronzy green to red. Fall color is bright red. Vigorous form with cascading pendulous growth habit.

'Filigree Green': A handsome yellow green, 7 lobed variety of the dissectum type that is overlain with minute dots and flecks of pale cream and gold. Leaves turn a rich golden in the fall. This cultivar is delicate and provides a bright element in shady locations. Forms a rounded cascade, 6' by 9' mound.

'Garnet': Rich gemstone garnet color fading to a purple green. When grown in the shade the leaves develop a more greenish cast, however in the full sun the deep garnet color will show. Fall color is a good red.

'Inaba-Shidare' (Red Select): Red laceleaf with a very rich leaf color that holds extremely well throughout the summer. The plant grows in the familiar dense cascading shape that one associates with a lace leaf maple.

'Lion's Head': This is the first laceleaf upright growing tree. The branching habit is upward growing then horizontal. Fall color is red.

'Red Dragon': The ultimate laceleaf with its spring color a Christmas red fading back to a deep purple-red. Hold its color very well throughout the summer. Crimson fall color. Grows similar to 'Inaba-Shidare'. At maturity this plant will have grown into a round weeping tree about 10' tall.

'Tamukeyama': Laceleaf maple with has extremely dark red leaves when grown in full sun. This variety is becoming very popular because of its true to form leaf color.

'Viridis': Green leaved maple, probably the most commonly planted green variety. Beautiful orange-yellow fall color with shades of red.

Note: Not all of these varieties will be available at all times.