



410 E. Scott Avenue, Woodland, WA 98674
E-mail: sales@tsugawanursery.com

(360) 225-8750 or Fax (360) 225-5086
On the Web at: www.tsugawanursery.com

JAPANESE MAPLES

Japanese maples are a group of plants that have one of the greatest ranges of use and beauty of any plant in use today. The diversity of size, color, form, shape and utility is so great that a Japanese maple can fit almost any need. Their colors range from the bold greens, to orange, orange-red, maroon, shades of red and even purple. Japanese maples even come in variegated forms which can range from a simple margin around the outside of a leaf to blotches that are randomly placed on the leaf. They can have big bold leaves or they can have fine, delicate foliage. Their fall foliage can be bold and bright and their twigs and branches can have color and texture to add interest to your winter landscape.

Japanese maples fit the role in the landscape in many ways: accent plants, shade for smaller under story plants, outline plants and specimen plantings. Some grow tall, others are spreading and some cascade. They can add so much to a landscape. They really are a tree for all seasons.

SOILS: Slightly acidic with some organic matter is ideal. We recommend Black Forest Planting Soil and/or Acid Planting Mix. When planting a Japanese maple, we recommend one-third planting compost to two-thirds existing soil. Make sure the top of the root ball is $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1" above the existing soil level. Water in well using Fertilome Root Stimulator. We also suggest using "Myke" when planting. "Myke" is made up of mychorrhizal organisms that help beef up the root systems and may help protect a plant from stress and disease.

MULCHING: This is very important especially in tight or heavy clay soils. Since their roots are shallow, they cannot penetrate heavy soils. Mulching helps retain moisture and keeps the roots cool in the heat of summer. We recommend:

1. Ideal mulch: Bark nuggets $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter.
2. Applied 2" deep. This allows moisture to go down but not come up. It also encourages a free exchange of gases.
3. It deters weeds from developing (because of lack of moisture in the upper layers).
4. Acts as protective insulation in the winter.

WATERING: Uniform water is important.

1. Early morning or early evening is best. This helps prevent leaf scorch.
2. Water around the base of the plant to prevent leaf burn.
3. We encourage deep water 1 to 2 times a week versus daily watering. When you water deeply 1 or 2 times a week, it encourages a deeper root system. This makes the tree more drought tolerant.

FERTILIZER: A balanced fertilizer such as one recommended for roses. We recommend Dr. Earth Rose or Rhododendron fertilizer. Applied once a year in early spring before the leaves emerge is sufficient.

PRUNING: Thoughtful pruning and shaping should be done each year. Pruning helps to showcase the plants structure. The beauty of a Japanese maple is not only in leaf color and fall color; it is also in the structure and texture of the tree.

1. Shaping should start once the young plant is established (about 2-3 years after planting).
2. Major pruning should be done during the dormant season after the leaves have fallen. Late November to early January (before the sap starts to rise),
3. Corrective pruning and training can be done at anytime except when the sap is rising.
4. A tree that is too bushy inside invites insect and disease problems.
5. Be sure to sterilize your pruners in bleach water before and after pruning your tree. This helps to prevent the spread of diseases.
6. Also, make sure your pruners are sharp so that you can get a nice clean cut.
7. Make sure you have the right equipment for the job. Pruners for small branches no larger than a pencil. Loppers for branches up to 2" and a good pruning saw for anything larger than 2".

SPRAYING: Spray in late fall (after leaf drop) and in early spring (before leaf break) with lime sulfur. If your plant gets aphids, Triple Action (Neem) can be used.

EXPOSURE:

1. Green varieties and cultivars can take the full sun with little or no leaf scorch.
2. Variegated forms prefer semi-shade and need protection from the hot afternoon sun.
3. Red cultivars need the sun to keep their red color, but can handle some shade.
4. Golden foliage maples prefer protection from the afternoon sun.

CONTAINER GROWING: Japanese maples make great container plants.

1. Planting media needs to have good water retention without becoming water-logged.
2. A time release fertilizer is recommended such as: Osmocote.
3. Uniform watering is a must.
4. Use Soil Moist to help with moisture control, especially in the summer months.
5. These plants can be grown in containers for many years without the need to transplant.

COMPANION PLANTINGS: Japanese maples have a fibrous root system which makes them ideal companions. Acid loving plants such as rhododendron, azaleas, kalmia, and dwarf conifers are just a few. Don't forget to try perennials, bulbs and other Japanese maples.