
Japanese, Vine and Specialty Hybrid Maples

Maples can be used very effectively on 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 varied spacing. They are invaluable in tubs and as bonsai specimens, and are ideal for Japanese gardens, around pools and along water gardens.

Acer palmatum: Deciduous shrub or tree, native to Japan and Korea. Very ornamental plant with lots of landscape value. Most are 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 transition to various fall shades; 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. Some of the more popular 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 easily reaching 15-20' tall. The red color varies between seedlings. Some colors are truer than others.

'Beni Kawa': A coral bark maple with salmon-red bark. Small green leaves with red edges in spring, bright red, yellow, orange in fall. Dense, upright habit to 15'. Slow growing. Best in partial to full shade.

'Bihou': An upright, vase shaped tree. Fast growth to a height of 12-15' and a width of 8-10'. Spring leaves are chartreuse, turning to a medium green. Fall color is yellow blended with orange. Winter interest is beautiful with bark turning orange/yellow.

'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 leafed tree forms. Light shining through the leaves on a bright day makes for a beautiful red effect. Very good hardy variety.

'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.

'Emperor I': Prized for its showy, dark red foliage on red-black bark. Best color in full sun. Moderate growth rate to 15'.

'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.

'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.

'Orange Flame': A strong, upright grower with a deeply lobed leaf. New leaves emerge orange turning to green in the summer. The fall color is beautiful with bright red accompanied by orange and yellow. Mature height is 18'.

'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.

‘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.

‘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 is 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.

‘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’.

Dwarf Varieties

‘Baby Lace’: Delicate lace-like foliage of pink, green and red in spring, turning to vibrant orange, red and yellow in fall. A dense, spreading and low-growing tree to 3-4’

‘Beni Hime’: One of the smaller dwarf varieties and a very slow grower. Year-long red-toned, very small leaves. Best color when given equal parts sun and shade. Tight growth habit to 3’.

‘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.

‘Mikawa Yatsubusa’: A top choice for bonsai. Unique, lobed and elongated overlapping leaves. Moderate to slow growing. Green leaves turn yellow, orange and red in the fall. Needs little pruning. Grows 3-5’.

‘Rhode Island Red’: This dwarf has a bright red leaf and dense compact branching. Mature height is 6’ and width is 5-6’.
Fall color is an outstanding orange to red

‘Shaina’: Compact dwarf with dark red leaves. The leaves are closely arranged giving the tree a dense, layered look. Mature height and width is 5-6’.

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

Acer palmatum shirasawanum: Also a native species to Japan commonly called full moon, autumn moon or shirasawa maple. Grows as a deciduous small tree or shrub. Bark is smooth on both young and old trees. A distinguishing characteristic is rounded leaves that are broad, veined and lobed. In autumn, leaves turn bright gold to orange or red. A true specimen plant for your garden. Some of the popular varieties are:

‘Aureum’: This slow growing, upright, bushy cultivar is an excellent choice for a small tree in the smaller garden or in containers. The spring buds are bright yellow turning to chartreuse as they mature. It has brilliant red samaras that hold well into summer. The leaves change to orange-yellow in Fall. In shade, the leaves will be more chartreuse. 15’ to 30’ tall and wide. Part Sun to Part Shade.

‘Autumn Full Moon’: Prized for fan-shaped unusual foliage that transitions yellow to orange to salmon and chartreuse. Slow growing to 8-12’. Requires little pruning to maintain beauty. Develops best color in light to open shade.

‘Golden Full Moon’: Desired for its attractive branching and lime to chartreuse tinged leaves that turn orange and red in the fall. Slow growing to 10-15’. Best in sun/part shade.

‘Jordan’: This is a vigorous, upright tree. The many lobed leaves emerge in pastel shades of orange, and change to bright yellow in summer. Bright red samaras provide a dramatic contrast with the foliage through summer. This tree demonstrates excellent sun tolerance. 15’ to 30’. Full sun to part shade.

'Moonrise': This vigorous cultivar is noted for its cherry red Spring color. It's lovely chartreuse summer color exhibits excellent sun tolerance. It is a moderate grower to 15' to 30'. Full sun to part shade.

'Red Dawn': The mid-sized cultivar has an upright, oval form and shows off rounded, red leaves in the spring. The leaves then fade to bronze and finally to scarlet in the fall. Sun to part shade, 8-10'.

'Yasmin': This shrubby cultivar has deeply dissected unusually shiny leaves and distinctive deep purple almost black bark. The burgundy leaves tend to fade somewhat in summer, but bright scarlet in the fall. The red coloration will hold better in full sun. 10' x 8'. Full sun to part shade.

Acer palmatum dissectum: Commonly known as the Lace Leaf Japanese 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 with age or staking, they can be made taller. Some of the popular varieties are:

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

'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.

'Red Dragon': The ultimate laceleaf with its spring color a Christmas red fading back to a deep purple-red. Holds 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.

Acer japonicum: A small to medium deciduous tree which is adaptable to most garden situations. These are sturdy trees with lovely lobed leaves. All cultivars demonstrate brilliant fall color. Some of the popular varieties are:

'Aconitifolium': Also called the Fern Leaf or Dancing Peacock Full Moon Maple. This deciduous cultivar has large, lacy, dissected green leaves in summer with striking, white and maroon samaras. It is also remarkable for its intense and long-lasting fall color in shades of scarlet to purple. 20'x15'. Sun to partial shade.

'Fairy Lights': This cultivar is compact and slow growing and ideal for small gardens. In spring, the highly dissected leaves are light green, changing to deep green in summer. In fall, it 'lights up' with brilliant scarlet, orange and yellow foliage – the source of its name, "Fairy Lights". 3'x4'. Performs best in bright to dappled shade.

'Indian Summer' - This is a spectacular cultivar has extremely large green leaves that purportedly can be the size of dinner plates. New growth is flushes of pink-red, which matures to dark green. In the fall, the leaves are bright yellow with tinges of orange and red. 8'-10'. Sun to partial shade.

'Otaki' – This well branched cultivar has unique spring color. It emerges green with a red cast and white pubescence (small hairs on new growth). Summer color is deep green. Its most outstanding feature is its brilliant red, crimson, gold, and orange leaves in Fall. 12'x15'. Sun to partial shade.

‘Rising Sun’ – This cultivar has uncommonly large, textured, green leaves (up to 8” across) in spring and summer. If you are looking for something bordering on a tropical look, this is your choice. Gorgeous fall color in red, yellow, and orange tones. 20’x 15’. Sun to part shade.

‘Ruby Red’- This small, upright cultivar exhibits dramatic red foliage. The new growth is deep black-red, which changes to bright red in spring, and finally to a bronzy green with darker edges in later summer. ‘Ruby’ tends to have pubescence on its stems and leaves, and holds its red color well. Fall color is shades of orange, red, and purple. 8’ x 3’ in 10 years. Sun to part shade.

‘Vitifolium’ –This cultivar is noted for large, shallowly lobed leaves which resemble grape leaves. The leaves emerge bronze, mature to green, and transition to deep purple, orange, and red fall colors. 10’x 15’ tall and wide. Full Sun to part shade.

Acer circinatum: The vine maple is one of the best deciduous, native trees for an urban garden. Specialty cultivars often prefer well drained soil. Some of the popular varieties are:

‘Vine Maple’: Our native vine maple with green leaves in summer. Fall colors hold well with shades of yellow, orange, scarlet. Form tends to be more upright in sun and more sprawling in shade. Best in partial sun to shade. 15’x15’.

‘Burgundy Jewel’: This is a unusual cultivar a of native a vine maple demonstrating reddish purple leaves. Fall color is orange red. 6’ x 4’ wide in 10 years. Holds its color best in full sun.

‘Monroe’: This cultivar has unusually deeply cut leaves with graceful, open branching habit. Thrives in open shady sites and reaches 10’ x12’ in 10 years. It exhibits beautiful orange, yellow, and scarlet foliage in fall. Drier locations will intensify the fall color.

‘Pacific Fire’: An easy to grow specimen that is appreciated for its coral to yellow bark. Thrives in dappled shade. Upright branching habit. Grows quickly, 15-18’ at maturity.

‘Pacific Sprite’: This small cultivar tends toward stubby growth pattern with unusual dark green, contorted leaves. In the Fall, foliage changes to shades of yellow, reds, and oranges. 4’ by 3’ in ten years, Sun to Part Shade.

Jack Frost® and Pacific Rim® Collections: These collections are new introductions from Iseli Nursery. They are cultivars of *Acer x pseudosieboldianum* which are small to medium sized, deciduous trees bred specifically for beauty and hardiness. The Jack Frost Collection® is particularly adaptable to extreme weather shifts in Northern climates.

‘Arctic Jade®’: This cultivar has large, deeply cut, green leaves and dramatic red and orange Fall colors. It has an excellent branching habit to 20’x15’. Bred for hardiness, this tree makes for an outstanding substitute for Japanese Maple where there are dramatic shifts in temperature. Sun to Part Shade (Jack Frost Collection®)

‘First Flame®’: This cultivar has small, star shaped leaves on a narrow, upright tree that broadens as it matures. The new spring foliage emerges with tones of yellow, pink and green. It exhibits outstanding, long lasting Fall color changing from orange, to wine, to fire engine red. 20’ x 15’. Sun to Part Shade (Pacific Rim Collection®).

‘Northwind®’: A hybrid cross between a Japanese maple and a Korean maple, this cultivar is bred to withstand dramatic weather shifts and Northern climate to Zone 4. Spring foliage emerges red, changing to green with striking pink samaras, and dramatic fall color. Use for specimen tree where significant hardiness is needed. 20’X 15’. Sun to Part Shade (Jack Frost Collection®)

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