

Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)

The Japanese Maple is a versatile, ornamental, hardy small tree or multi-stemmed shrub. The deeply lobed leaves are red or reddish-purple in spring and again in fall. In between, color varies from remaining red all summer to sometimes fading slightly with maturity or summer heat and even turning green. The bark is fairly smooth. Young stems are green to reddish purple and red turning gray with age.

Japanese Maples can grow to 25' tall with a 20' spread and prefer slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil, and dappled shade; although if too much shade will grow slower and turn more green. Young leaves will need protection from high winds or late spring frosts. It is important to keep soil moisture consistent avoiding alternating dry and wet periods. This tree can be used for a specimen, accent, shrub border, grouping, or bonsai.