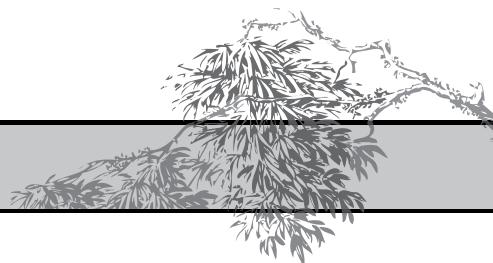


# CARE GUIDE:

## Japanese Maples

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### PLANTING

Japanese maples are easy to plant. The root systems are fairly shallow without long tap roots. After planting, add 2-4" of mulch, avoiding contact with the base of the tree. Mulch provides protection in hot areas, as well as in winter weather. The root ball should not be exposed to temperatures

below 14°F. Maples perform well in the same conditions as rhododendrons. When transplanting maples from one part of the garden to another, take extra care to soak the root system for three days before digging. Mist foliage several times a day for a few days after transplanting. Fall is a good time to transplant.

### LIGHT



Four or more hours of filtered sun a day; many prefer more. Enough sun for good leaf color, but not enough to burn the plant. Red-leafed

varieties can generally take more sun than variegated or green-leafed varieties. Afternoon shade is recommended, or at least partial shade later in the day.

### WATER



Maples do not have unusual moisture requirements. Keep levels uniform. Maples shouldn't go from dry to waterlogged, as this will cause

leaf burn. Watering on sunny, hot days will also cause leaf burn. Generally, it's best to water early or late in the day.

### SOIL



Japanese maples like sandy loam with low to medium amounts of organic matter. Rich soils can cause leggy growth. Acid or natural soils are best for maples. Two- to

four-inches of mulch is recommended to help retain moisture, and keep roots insulated from heat and cold.

### FERTILIZERS

Japanese maples do not require large amounts of fertilizer. High nitrogen fertilizers will cause overly rapid growth, forcing the plant into an abnormal growth cycle. Nitrogen excess can also lead to root tip damage, causing leaf tip burn. Use a slow release fertilizer such as granular Osmocote™ or a half-strength solution of a liquid fertilizer such as Peter's™.

### GROWING IN CONTAINERS

Many new cultivars lend themselves to container gardening. Even large growing maples can be kept in large containers for many years, provided watering is maintained. A good potting mix consists of 8 parts shredded pine bark to 1 part sand.

### PESTS

Although Japanese maples have few pest or disease problems, Japanese beetles will attack the foliage, starting in the first or second week of July. Spray with liquid Sevin or other products labeled for Japanese beetles. A systemic insecticide containing the active ingredient imidacloprid (such as Bayer All-In-One) will kill insects that attempt to feed on the leaves, as well. Apply a week or so before beetles emerge (in June). You can also inoculate your yard by applying granular Milky Spore bacteria to lawns and garden beds. These bacteria will attract and kill Japanese beetle grubs.



### PRUNING

There are two main times when NOT to prune. Don't prune when maples are putting on new leaves in spring, or right before leaves drop in fall. Japanese maples can be pruned at just about any other time, and respond well to severe pruning, if needed. Regular "touch-up" pruning will help maintain desired height or shape. When cutting, cut just above a latent bud at a 45° angle, or flush to the existing branch.

### HEAT TOLERANT CULTIVARS

The following cultivars have been shown to be heat tolerant:

'Moonfire'	'Tamukeyama'	'Lion Heart'
'Oshio Beni'	'Seriya'	'Fireglow'

### SUN TOLERANT CULTIVARS

Most Japanese maples can take some afternoon sun, except for types with finely dissected leaves such as 'Crimson Queen'. The trees should not be sited against a western-facing wall—reflected afternoon heat can cause heat stress. Some varieties to consider:

'Emperor 1'	'Bloodgood'	'Fireglow'
'Moonfire'	'Sangu Kaku'	'Osakazuki'

#### References

Maples of the World  
By: D.M. van Gilder  
Published by Timber Press

Japanese Maples  
By: J.D. Vertrees  
Published by Timber Press