



FACEBOOK LIVE WEBINAR

Japanese Maples 101

There is no other tree like a Japanese Maple. With so many varieties, year-round appeal, and intense color, it is hard not to fall in love with these amazing ornamental plants. Join Mike Westphal, the Garden Guru as he discusses all things Japanese Maple. From varieties you may love to care for, to tips you need to know, The Garden Guru is here to help you keep these amazing trees looking beautiful, no matter the time of year.

OUR FAVORITE ORNAMENTAL TREE

Without a doubt, Japanese Maples are by far one of the most popular and versatile of the ornamental trees. People absolutely love them, and for good reason - they're beautiful! These maples come in brilliant reds, vibrant oranges, and surreal greens with every color in between. Their size makes them accessible to those whose gardens are measured in square feet instead of acres. With their small stature, tremendous variety, and four-season beauty, Japanese Maples offer something all year-round.

CARE FOR JAPANESE MAPLES

Pruning -

Maples have a naturally beautiful form, so if they are in good health and have room to grow, they'll need very little pruning. If pruning is required, prune during the winter to remove dead, dying, and diseased limbs. Shape the crown as desired to achieve your landscaping goals.

Watering -

Water is critical to Japanese Maples, especially during the heat of Hampton Roads summers.

Avoid overhead watering, especially during the heat of the day, to prevent disease and fungus. Drip irrigation is best and remember to keep the soil around the tree mulched.

Planting Location -

In their natural habitat, Japanese Maples are an understory tree. They should be planted in areas with light shade, however, full sun is acceptable for many cultivars if irrigation is provided during summer droughts.

Pests/Problems -

Be on the lookout for these pests and problems that can occur with Japanese Maples:

- **Aphids** - Spray with a general purpose insecticide such as Fertilome Broad Spectrum Insect Spray.
- **Scale** - During dormant periods, treat with horticultural oil.
- **Borers** - Spray when needed in May or June with Fertilome Borer & Caterpillar Spray.
- **Leaf Scorch** - Avoid using lawn fertilizer in the root zone of the tree, as too much nitrogen can burn the leaves. Apply a 3-inch layer of mulch to keep roots cool and moist.

PRO TIP: for more information on mulching, see our blog [here](#).

- **Powdery Mildew** - Treat with a fungicide, such as Fertilome Garden Fungicide

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Planting -

In the Ground: Dig a hole approximately twice the width of the root ball. Use your fingers to loosen the rootball, then place it in the hole. The top of the rootball should sit about an inch above ground level. Fill the hole with McDonald Garden Center's recommended soil mixture (1/3 compost, 1/3 perlite, and 1/3 of your own dirt that came from the hole you dug out). Mulch over top of the roots and water to finish.

In a Container: Fill your container about 1/3 of the way with McDonald Garden Center's Potting Soil. Place the Japanese Maple in the pot to measure if you have enough distance from the edge of the container. You should be at about 1 inch below the lip of the container. Loosen the roots and add in a container-friendly fertilizer like Espoma's Biotone Starter Plus. Fill the rest of the pot with soil and make sure you are not covering the trunk of the tree with soil. Add in a thin layer of mulch to top the container, water to finish.

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