

Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum



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Origin



Japan

Korea

China

Characteristics

- 6-10 meters tall, sometimes up to 16 m
- Grows in understory of woodland
- Dome shaped when mature, upside-down pyramid when young, Deciduous
- Leaves are 5, 7, and 9 lobed palmately-veined, varying in color within different cultivars, ranging from 4-12 cm wide
- Samaras are 2-3 cm wide
- Variations among different Cultivars

Characteristics



davesgarden.com



Distribution

- Found in most temperate areas of the world
- Can be purchased in many nurseries and garden centers in Europe and North America



Cultivation

- Bright red leaves are most popular
- Deeply lobed also very popular
- Over 1000 cultivars now, and many more being bred every decade
- Some cultivars bred to be small shrubs while others are bred to grow vigorously
- Popular among Bonsai enthusiasts

Cultivation



Growing Conditions

- Partial sun to shady conditions
- Well drained soils are desirable of pH 6-8
- Can grow well in containers
- Grow best when not over-fertilized
- Needs moderate water



Diseases and Disorders

- Drought-Browning margins, necrosis and dieback. Leaf scorch from sun exposure
- Verticillium wilt-causes leaf wilt and can kill entire tree
- Phytophthora root rot and root collar canker are often found in wet conditions
- Soil nematodes and parasitic worms feed on roots
- Herbivorous insects(thrips, aphids, etc.)



Why I like this tree?

- Very delicate form
- Great leaf color, especially in the fall
- Very versatile, can be used as a small to medium tree in the landscape, a shrub, or a container tree.

References

- www.onlinegardener.com/trees/Japanesemaple.htm
- van Gelderen, C.J. *Maples for Gardens: A Color Encyclopedia*. 1999
- Vertrees, J.D. *Japanese Maples*. Timber Press, Inc. 1987