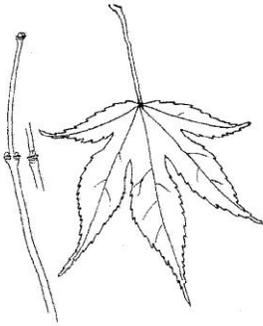


Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This is an elegant and somewhat aristocratic small tree that is very desirable in the landscape particularly in medium to small gardens. The chief attributes are: the palmately lobed leaves that in some cultivars are highly dissected; the rounded or vase like growth habit; the opposite branching that gives the plant a layered look; the leaf colors that can range from light green to reddish purple; the brilliant fall color that is yellow to red; and, the winter silhouette with the smooth grey bark. There are cultivars that can become 40' high and cultivars that have a weeping habit and are only a few feet high and very slow growing. All in all a staple in the array of landscape trees and shrubs.

HABIT AND SIZE: Generally 15-25' high and equally wide but some specimens are as much as 40' and others as small as 3'. The overall habit is rounded to broad rounded to vase like. It can have a single main trunk and be more tree like or be pruned to have a multi-stemmed trunk and be more shrub like.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: An extremely versatile plant that can be a perfect shade tree for a patio or small garden. The smaller cultivars can be kept pruned and used in miniature landscapes.

LEAVES: Oppositely arranged, simple, 5-11 palmately lobed 2-5" long. There is a large range of dissection of the lobed from simple 5 lobed to highly dissected leaves that give a lace like appearance. Leaf color is light to various shades of green turning yellow or bronze or purple to red in the fall. Some cultivars have a reddish purple summer color.

FLOWERS: Pendulous terminal corymbs of small red to purple flowers with no petals, 5 stamens and a 2 lobed ovary with 2 fuzzy looking arching styles appear in May to June.

FRUIT: Paired single seeded samaras (winged achenes) 0.5-0.75" long with the wings 0.25-0.375" wide. The wings are much incurved and often reddish.

BUD: Small green or red buds with non-overlapping scales are obscured by the base of the leaf petiole. Naked buds sit in the center of a leaf scar with raised edges.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Very few problems. Cuttings susceptible to *Botrytis* infection.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 5-8 depending upon cultivar. Originally from China, Korea and Japan.

CULTIVARS: 'Bloodgood' and 'Moonfire'-reddish purple foliage (*atropurpureum* types) and *dissectum* types have finely dissected foliage some are reddish.