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**Japanese Maple**  
*Acer palmatum*

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ●

Hardiness Zone: 5

**Description:**

The most coveted of all small landscape trees, and with good reason - it has almost the perfect shape, habit, and fall colors; the species can be quite variable, numerous cultivars are available selected for specific attributes

**Ornamental Features**

Japanese Maple features subtle corymbs of red flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring before the leaves. It has dark green foliage throughout the season. The lobed palmate leaves turn outstanding shades of yellow, red and deep purple in the fall. It produces red samaras from early to mid fall. The rough gray bark and red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

**Landscape Attributes**

Japanese Maple is a deciduous tree with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and should only be pruned in summer after the leaves have fully developed, as it may 'bleed' sap if pruned in late winter or early spring. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Japanese Maple is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade



*Japanese Maple in fall*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Japanese Maple*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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### **Planting & Growing**

Japanese Maple will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 5 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.

This tree should be grown in a location that is shaded from the hot afternoon sun. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Moana Lane Garden Center & Corporate Office  
1100 W. Moana Lane  
Reno, NV 89509  
(775) 825-0600  
(775) 825-0602 - Corporate Office

South Virginia St. Garden Center  
11301 S. Virginia Street  
Reno, NV 89511  
(775) 853-1319

Pyramid Way Garden Center  
3397 Pyramid Way  
Sparks, NV 89431  
(775) 425-4300

Landscape Services & Design Center  
1190 W. Moana Lane  
Reno, NV 89509  
(775) 825-0602 ext. 134  
NV Lic. #3379A, D & CA Lic. #317448

[www.moananursery.com](http://www.moananursery.com)