

Japanese Maple (Acer Palmatum) Care

About Japanese Maple

Japanese maple is a deciduous species with striking 5 pointed leaves. These leaves vary from bright green to deep purplish red depending on the species.

Placement

Japanese maples are outdoor species. They can be brought in temporarily, but should remain mostly outside. They may be overwintered in an unheated garage or cold frame during the winter. Maples prefer part shade, with morning sun into afternoon shade the best option.

Watering

Do not allow the roots to dry completely. Water when the top of the soil is dry and water sufficiently until water pours through the pot freely. Japanese maples prefer to be kept slightly moist.

Fertilizing

Fertilize with pellet based, slow release all purpose fertilizer monthly during the growing season..

Pruning & Trimming

Prune new shoots back to the first pair of leaves early in spring to maintain and balance vigor and keep branches from growing leggy

Repotting

Repot every 2-3 years, preferably in late August or early September. Give 6 weeks prior to first (expected) frost to allow recovery time. Remove no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the root mass during root pruning.

Diseases, Insects & Other Pests

Aphids, cotton scale and mildews are common pests for Japanese maples. Treat with insecticides specifically for each specific pest as directed.

DISCLAIMER: The content provided in this article is not warranted or guaranteed by Leatherstocking Exotics. The content provided is intended for entertainment and/or educational purposes in order to introduce to the reader key ideas, concepts, and/or product reviews. We are not liable for any negative consequences that may result from implementing any information covered in any of our articles or tutorials. Happy bonsai gardening.