



METRO MAPLES

April 2019 Newsletter



MOTHER'S DAY!

Metro Maples trees and gift certificates make great gifts for the gardener in your life.



'RED EMPEROR'

Our featured variety this month is among our best sellers and for good reason!



JAPANESE GARDENS

We discuss a few of the fundamentals of Japanese garden design.

MOTHER'S DAY!

Just a friendly reminder that Mother's Day is May 12th.

Moms tend to like thoughtful gifts. Something unique. They tend to like pretty things. Pretty things that endure, beautify their home, and impress their friends. A Japanese maple from Metro Maples fits that bill perfectly.

In our experience, moms also like it when you spend time with them. If that's true in your case, a family trip to Metro Maples can give you some quality time together and allow her to choose the tree(s) she wants rather than you having to make the selection yourself.

We also know that for some of you, whether due to busy schedules, geography, or emotional well-being, a family trip to the farm isn't ideal. For you we also offer gift certificates in any denomination you'd like.

Come see us!





The bright red of spring will darken to burgundy, purple, or even a deep green in summer.

'RED EMPEROR'

Acer palmatum 'Red Emperor' is a perennial favorite at Metro Maples and is among our best sellers every year.

Maturing at around 15' tall and wide, this stunner of a tree works perfectly as an understory tree beneath larger trees like oaks, elms, and pecans.

We often recommend 'Red Emperor' in place of the 'Bloodgood' maple that for decades has been the most common red-leaved maple seen in the nursery trade. 'Bloodgood' is a fine tree, but we like 'Red Emperor' better because of its better growth rate, graceful habit, better heat tolerance, and brighter spring and fall color.

'Red Emperor' has large palmate leaves (about the size of a baseball) that emerge a bright red in spring. By June, the red will have deepened to a deep burgundy purple (in a little sun) to green (in heavier shade). Fall color is a brilliant scarlet.

The tree has an open, airy, graceful habit that only gets better with age.



This is a big, old tree, but is a good example of the shape and growth of this awesome cultivar.



This is a 'Red Emperor' in autumn. It's appropriately surrounded by larger trees that shelter it from the intense midday sun.

We currently have trees in 1, 2, 5, 7 and 10 gallon sizes, as well as a number of much larger trees (8-10' tall) available for purchase. Prices range from as low as \$25 to \$650 depending on the age and size of the tree.

JAPANESE GARDEN DESIGN

Spring is a time when lots of us start looking outside at our landscapes and want to get outside and play in the dirt. We thought it might be helpful to talk a little bit about and what we mean when we talk about a "Japanese garden."

(Disclaimer: Your garden is yours and should reflect your personal style.)

Key Elements

A Japanese garden includes all the natural elements you'd find in any garden - wood, stone, water, and plants. It's how these elements are used that makes all the difference. The garden should feel like a natural setting and one that is tranquil and pleasing to the eye.

Wood elements like fencing or decking are typically unpainted and left a natural weathered gray or with a subtle stained finish.

Stone elements should be of similar colors and types of stone, so as to appear more cohesive and native to the environment. It's also wise to avoid anything out of scale to your garden or anything you'd characterize as "dramatic."

The sound of flowing or dripping water can add a relaxing element to the garden, and water elements would ideally look as much a part of the natural landscape as possible, or consist of natural materials like stone or bamboo.

The plants in a Japanese garden are chosen to highlight the changes of the seasons and don't overwhelm the viewer with color. Accents of color can be interesting and direct the eye through the garden, but keep in mind the ultimate goal of a Japanese garden is tranquility.

Ornamentation

Japanese gardens aren't often described as "cute" or "whimsical". Ornaments are typically confined to an occasional stone lantern, fountain, or statue, and they are used sparingly. We're not saying you can't have a gnome or a flamingo in your Japanese garden, but try to keep them to a minimum.



A Japanese garden is an exercise in thoughtful, deliberate design to create a peaceful environment that feels natural.





Clean architectural lines, natural finished wood surfaces, and restrained color palate all contribute to the Portland Japanese Garden's serenity.

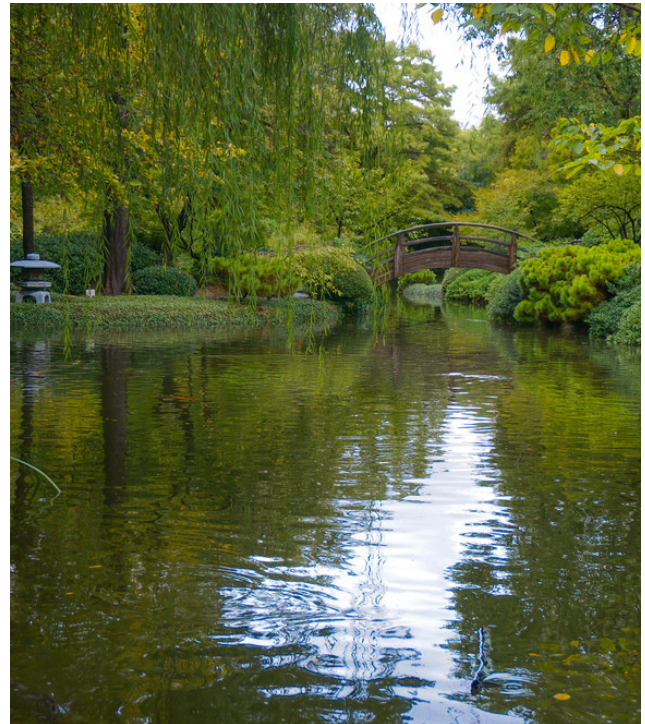
Architecture

Garden furniture and architecture are likewise understated and feature clean lines, simple geometry, natural finishes, and a lack of bright colors or ornamentation. Simplicity, craftsmanship, and restraint are preferred over bright colors and elaborate detail.

Space and Scale

In each of the pictures accompanying this article, you'll notice empty spaces. Views are not completely filled with material. The spaces between elements allow the eye to flow from place to place without ever being distracted by one element to the exclusion of everything else.

Aside from large shade trees that serve as a canopy under which the garden sits, the scale of the garden should reflect the people who will walk through it. Pathways can be narrow and winding, seating areas cozy and intimate. Even a large garden will consist of many small niches throughout.



The Moon Bridge and pond at the Fort Worth Japanese Garden. Photo credit: www.fwb.org/the-japanese-garden

Where To Learn More

We have a terrific example of a public Japanese garden in the Botanic Garden in Fort Worth. The 7.5 acre Japanese garden is built around large ponds filled with koi and would be a great place to visit to get inspiration for your own garden. You'll see many great maples inside the garden, several of which began their lives at Metro Maples.



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