



METRO MAPLES

February 2021 Newsletter



NEWS & NOTES

New Fire Dragons and more young Japanese maples are now available!

ACER JAPONICUM

We detail 4 different cultivars of this distinctly different species of Japanese maple.

COLD WEATHER!!!

How will your trees handle the upcoming arctic blast?

NEWS & NOTES

It may be hard to believe this week, but it won't be long until the trees begin to wake up and start to brighten our gardens once again.

If you're thinking of adding a new tree to your landscape this spring, February is a great time to put that plan in motion. So many Japanese maples are every bit as bright and colorful in the spring as they are in autumn, and planting in early spring will give you the benefit of seeing those colors emerge this year.

We now have dozens of 30-gallon 'Fire Dragon' Shantung maples in stock with dense branching and great shapes. If you are in need of a tree that grows in full sun and turns a brilliant red in fall, you might want to come check them out.

We're continuing to be open by appointment from Monday through Saturday from 8:00am - 2:00pm (unless the roads are impassable). We'd love to see you!



Its cold now, but spring is just around the corner!

ACER JAPONICUM CULTIVARS

The broad term 'Japanese maple' is applied to a handful of maple species native to Japan. Most of the Japanese maples that we offer are *Acer palmatum* cultivars. However, there are a few other Japanese maples from other species that have earned places in our inventory. The most popular of those are the *Acer japonicum* (commonly called the Full Moon maple) cultivars. We currently carry 4 varieties: 'Aconitifolium,' 'Meigetsu itaya,' 'Green Cascade,' and 'Vitifolium.' All have proven themselves to be outstanding trees with good heat tolerance (but not afternoon sun tolerance) and distinct character.



Fall color on 'Aconitifolium'



Spring foliage on 'Meigetsu itaya'



This mature 'Green Cascade' specimen is about 5' tall and easily 9' wide.

'Aconitifolium' is a semi-dwarf upright and spreading tree to 10' tall and wide. Deeply divided leaves resembling feathers are larger than the leaves on most other Japanese maples and turn a vibrant mix of yellow, orange, and red in fall.

'Meigetsu itaya' has larger, less divided leaves than the 'Aconitifolium,' and grows to 12-15'. Fall colors are again a brilliant mix of yellow, oranges, and reds.

'Green Cascade' has similar foliage and colors to 'Aconitifolium' but is a spreading, weeping cultivar. This slow-growing tree can ultimately reach 5-6' tall by 8-9' wide after 10 years.

'Vitifolium' is the tallest and most vigorous cultivar in the group, reaching

15-18 feet tall and wide. Its unique, round leaves are among the largest in our inventory, often over 6" diameter and are a mix of oranges and reds in fall.

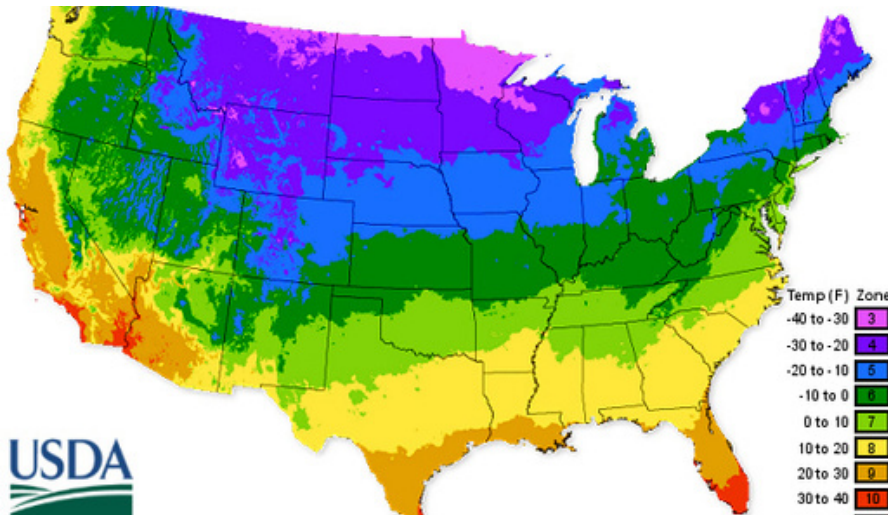
We currently have a wide range of sizes of these cultivars available. You can see a full listing of our inventory on our website.

COLD WEATHER!!!

Some of the coldest air we've seen in several years is set to arrive in DFW this weekend, and we've seen an increase in phone calls and emails from our customers asking about what can be done to protect their trees from the cold.



Fortunately, maple trees are native to places much colder than North Texas, so if your trees are planted in the ground, they'll get through this cold snap just fine.



How cold can the trees get and survive?

DFW is in USDA Hardiness Zone 8 (but we might get Zone 7 temps early next week).

Most Japanese maples are hardy to Zone 5 or 6, and Shantung maples are hardy to Zone 4, assuming they're planted in the ground.

But what about trees in containers?

The basic guideline is to bump up the hardiness zone by 2 -- so a tree that is hardy to Zone 6 in the ground would only be hardy in Zone 8 in a pot. The Zone 5 trees will be hardy to Zone 7, etc.

That still puts us in the clear as long as we're above 10 degrees, but recent forecasts have us below 10 degrees early next week, so . . .

So should I move my little potted trees indoors, just in case?

Yes. Even an unheated garage would be just fine for a few days, and would provide plenty of protection. Growing maples indoors long term is a losing proposition, but it would be ok to bring them inside or in an unheated garage to get through this short cold snap. If you can't move them inside, just placing them near a south-facing wall, or under a covered patio would help. The goal is to keep the root systems above 15 degrees if possible.

Would watering help?

Yes. A hydrated tree will handle the cold better than a dry one, and moist soil will chill more slowly than dry soil will.

Should I mulch my trees in the ground?

A few inches of mulch would act as a blanket, helping to trap a little more heat in the soil around the root system, and will prevent your tree from drying out. But again, if the trees are planted in the ground, they should get through these temperatures just fine, with or without mulch.

Should I wrap my tree?

We don't wrap our trees at the farm if they don't have leaves. The part of the tree we're concerned about is the root system, and wrapping the branches doesn't help us there.



A few inches of snow can act as a blanket.

If we were in late March/April and we had sub-freezing temperatures and some newly emerging leaves on the trees, protecting them might be advisable. But when the trees are dormant, it's simply not a concern.

What about if it snows?

A covering of snow on the ground actually helps. It acts as an insulator and keeps the ground temperatures a bit warmer.

One of the nice things about Texas winters is that even when it does get cold, it's never for very long. The ground is still quite warm, and with any luck, this will be the last time we have to worry about single-digit temperatures for a long, long time.



METRO MAPLES
4890 DICK PRICE ROAD, FORT WORTH, TX 76140
817-797-3419