



METRO MAPLES

November 2019 Newsletter



GIFT CERTIFICATES

Gift Certificates make a terrific gift for the maple fanatic in your life this holiday season.



'ORANGEOLA'

Our featured variety this month is a perennial favorite that stands out as a top performer.



WINTER IS COMING!

How to prepare your maples for winter and spring.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

If you're searching for the perfect gift for an avid gardener with excellent taste, we happily offer gift certificates in any denomination.

If you'd prefer to give a tree you've picked out yourself, we have a few thousand trees in 1, 2 and 3 gallon pots for \$25, \$35, and \$45; and a wide variety of larger trees in stock.



As we'll cover below, our trees are quite winter hardy here in Texas and will make excellent gifts your loved ones will enjoy throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give us a call at 817-797-3419.



Spring color on 'Orangeola'. The spring color is short lived, but can sometimes last through early June.

'ORANGEOLA'

Acer palmatum 'Orangeola' is one of our favorite weeping Japanese maples. This hardy variety grows to only 4-5' tall but could get twice as wide after many years. Multiple color shifts throughout the growing season maintain visual interest through the year.

'Orangeola' grows well in Texas heat, and can even tolerate a few hours of morning sun. They are among the best cultivars for those marginal locations in the landscape that are a bit risky for other maples.

The habit of the tree is similar to the other weeping cultivars, but is significantly denser, often to the point of obscuring the trunk completely.

The colors on 'Orangeola' are outstanding and set this cultivar apart. The new foliage in spring and early summer is a mix of pale green and a cinnamon orange. As the leaves mature, they deepen to a solid green. 'Orangeola' will often 'wake up' and produce another flush of growth as soon as the heat breaks in Sept/Oct with the same spring colors, before the entire tree goes fire engine orange-red in November.



The typical dense growth and deep green color of 'Orangeola' in summer.



It's not orange like a pumpkin, but it isn't purely red either.

Most of the specimens we have available today are less than 3' tall and wide. We currently have trees in 1, 2, 3, and 5 gallon containers, as well as an assortment of larger balled and burlap specimens. Check the "Our Inventory" page of our website for more details!

WINTER IS COMING!

Winter is coming, and with it comes many questions from anxious gardeners about how to best take care of their maple trees, so we thought we'd include a few tips to help set your mind at ease.

COLD - Japanese maples are hardy to USDA Zone 5-6 (e.g. Chicago). DFW is Zone 8a, so there's no need to insulate your trees or bring them indoors. Even trees grown in pots should survive winter temperatures here, provided they're setting on the ground.



Winter can be intimidating for Texas gardeners, but don't worry. It's really not so bad.

FERTILIZING - There's no need to fertilize your tree until early spring. Texas soils have plenty of nutrition for maples to grow roots through the winter. It is only when the leaf buds begin to swell that the tree will benefit from a light feeding of a balanced slow-release fertilizer.

WATER - As maples drop their leaves for the winter, their water needs also drop significantly. You won't need to water your trees unless we have a prolonged dry spell of more than a couple of weeks.



PRUNING - The dormant season is a great time to prune your maples. Here are the basics:

1. Remove any dead branches (they'll be white or gray, and brittle)
2. Where two branches are crossing and rubbing, keep one and remove one.
3. Remove any branches that are impeding walkways or obstructing views.
4. It's best to prune a little bit each year, removing younger growth a little at a time.

TRANSPLANTING - The dormant season is also the best time to move your tree. By moving it in winter, you greatly reduce the chances of shock, and you give the tree ample time to grow roots in its new location so it can drink up plenty of water in spring and summer.



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4890 DICK PRICE ROAD, FORT WORTH, TX 76140

817-797-3419