



METRO MAPLES

October 2018 Newsletter



NEW TREES ARE HERE!

Hundreds of trees have arrived from Oregon!

MIKAWA YATSUBUSA

Our featured variety this month is a dwarf cultivar of exceptional character.

IT'S TIME TO PLANT!

Cooler temps make fall the perfect time to plant!

NEW TREES ARE HERE!

Last week we received the year's last shipment of large maples from growers in Oregon.

It took us several days to unload, unwrap and organize the nearly 20 tons of trees we received, but all those trees are now ready to go home with you today.

The trees made a long journey in a dark, refrigerated truck, so many of them are already at their peak fall color, and are a couple of weeks ahead of the trees that spent their summer here in Texas.

Autumn is the ideal time to plant Japanese maples, and the selection we have available is probably the best its been all year.





'MIKAWA YATSUBUSA'

When you have as many varieties of Japanese maple as we do at Metro Maples, it's hard to pick a favorite. That said, if we each had to write a "Top 5" list, it's safe to say 'Mikawa yatsubusa' would be a unanimous choice.

While we rightfully boast about our extensive catalog, a lot of the distinctions between the varieties can seem pretty subtle, especially in young trees. This isn't the case with 'Mikawa yatsubusa.' Its color, shape, size, habit and growth rate are so distinctive, you can't mistake it. It's in a class by itself.

'Mikawa yatsubusa' is an upright dwarf, with very tightly packed leaves, and an incredibly sculptural look. The effect is wholly different from what most people think of when they hear 'Japanese maple.' It looks more like a piece of modern art that would be as much at home in a museum as in a classical Japanese garden.

Those densely layered leaves emerge a bright chartreuse in spring, and darken to a deep forest green -- among the darkest green we see in the summer months-- before turning a deep crimson with a few golds and oranges here and there in autumn.

'Mikawa yatsubusa' can tolerate an hour or two of direct sun, especially in the morning hours, but a shadier spot with dappled light all day would be best for this little cultivar.



It is definitely a dwarf, and while we do have a few dozen trees in the 3 to 5 foot range (thanks to our recent truck from Oregon), we rarely have 'Mikawa yatsubusas' larger than 6 feet tall. These trees shouldn't be expected to grow more than 2 or 3 inches each year here in Texas, so what you see today is what you're going to have for quite some time. It won't be shading your roof, and you'll need to find another tree to hang your tire swing from, but it makes an excellent focal point in a small courtyard garden or foundation planting.

We currently have trees in 1, 2, 5, and 10 gallon sizes available for purchase.

IT'S TIME TO PLANT!

Now is the ideal time to plant Japanese maples here in North Texas.

Why?

The single best thing we can do to help our maples thrive during our hot Texas summers is to give them a healthy root system. Maples will grow roots even when they don't have leaves, provided the ground temperature is above 40 degrees.

By planting your tree now, you give it the longest possible time to get comfortable and grow as many roots as it can before the temps heat back up next summer.

Autumn also has the advantage of being rainier, which is good for the trees and cooler, which makes life easier for us gardeners as well. It's just a better time for everyone involved.



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