



METRO MAPLES

February 2020 Newsletter



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A message of gratitude for the year past, and best wishes for the year ahead.



'SHIN DESHOJO'

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



WINTER AT METRO MAPLES

"So what do y'all do out there in the winter?"

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In this first newsletter of 2020, we'd like to take a moment to thank all of our customers for your continued support.

Last year was a record-breaking year for Metro Maples. We continued to make improvements to the farm, allowing us to produce more trees of higher quality. The two biggest changes we made were the addition of a new Bobcat mini track loader, and our first insulated and air conditioned office.



We still have lots of work to do but can't wait to do it. It promises to be a very fun and exciting 2020. We look forward to seeing and working with you all in the months ahead!

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



Spring color on 'Shin deshojo'. This variety is always among the brightest reds on the farm in springtime.

'SHIN DESHOJO'

Acer palmatum 'Shin deshojo' is a classic upright Japanese maple that deserves a spot in every garden. Named the 2018 "Maple of the Year" by the North American Maple Society, this small spreading tree grows to 10' tall and wide after several years. Multiple color shifts make this tree an interesting specimen throughout the year.

'Shin deshojo' grows well in Texas heat but prefers to be in bright shade. This tree is among the most intensely red varieties at the nursery in spring. After a few weeks, the red becomes a coppery orange as it transitions to a deep green for the summer months. Fall color is predominately a deep red with a little gold here and there.

The shape of the tree is similar to the other upright cultivars, but it tends to spread out a little more quickly than the average Japanese maple. It's a relatively small tree, but with an open, airy structure that works elegantly as an understory tree. It provides a bright and colorful focal point in a garden without being too overwhelming.



It's hard to describe all the colors you see in 'Shin deshojo' as it transitions from the bright ruby red of spring to the olive green of summer.



This 'Shin deshojo' is in spring color. This image gives you a nice idea of the mature shape and size of this outstanding cultivar.

There are several other cultivars that perform similarly to 'Shin deshojo' and we have many of them in stock. 'Bonfire', 'Deshojo', 'Corallinum', and 'Beni maiko' are just a few examples.

We currently have trees in 1, 2, 3, and 15 gallon containers. Prices range from \$25 to \$225. Check the "Our Inventory" page of our website for more details!

WINTER AT METRO MAPLES

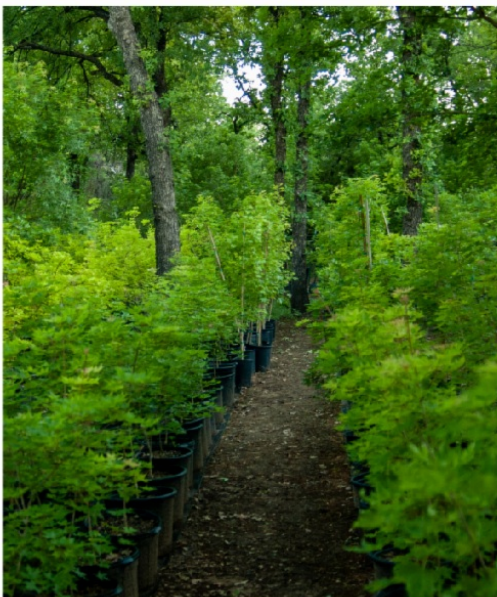
One of the questions we get asked more often than you might think is:

"So what do you guys do out here in the winter?"

It's a fair question.

There's actually quite a lot that goes on for us in the "off season," not least among them is selling trees. The winter is a fine time to plant trees, and while we don't see the numbers of folks that we will in the busiest months of spring, we are still open for business and would love to see you.

For our owner, Scott Hubble, winter is grafting season. We won't see much of him over the next couple of months, as he will be in the greenhouse, grafting around 4,000 individual trees. It is a mind-numbingly tedious job that requires skill, patience and great attention to detail, not to mention a personality that lends itself to the tolerance for these types of things. We don't allow Steve to graft. Steve writes the email newsletter. Usually at the last minute. Or later (happy February, by the way).



These trees have been re-potted twice since this picture was taken in summer of 2017.



"What would you say . . . you do . . . here?"

"The Bobs" from Office Space, 1999 by Twentieth Century Fox

Scott's two employees, Steve and Ari, endeavor to do everything they can to lighten the burden, so that he can focus on the grafting. For Steve and Ari, the top priority is to help any customers, but in the winter there are fewer customers than in the spring and fall, so there's ample time to focus on re-potting trees, digging trees, and a bevy of special projects.

First there's re-potting. Each year, trees that we're growing with intent to sell in the future will get promoted from 5 gallon pots to 7s and from 7s to 10s or 15s. Hundreds of trees will be upgraded to larger pots this winter. It's important to do it right, but it's not nearly as difficult as grafting. Even

Steve can help with this effort, although it's best that Ari be available to supervise.

And then there's the digging.

We have a few dozen large Shantungs and 'Fire Dragons' that were planted years ago that are now quite large and need to be dug up and potted in large containers.

It may seem like a very risky thing to do - digging a tree out of the ground - but the Shantungs make it easy on us. They are incredibly resilient and will begin to root out immediately. It's amazing how quickly they'll fill those containers with healthy roots, assuming we do our part right.

Also of tremendous help is our new skid steer, which has allowed us to lift the trees out of the ground with their root systems much more solidly intact, and safely lower them into their pots. Steve has gotten fairly proficient at working with that thing, and in nearly 12 months has yet to roll it over, which we're all pretty excited about.

These newly potted trees will be firmly established, healthy and available for purchase in the autumn of 2020 or in some cases the spring of 2021.

Metro Maples is a little over 6 acres, and is divided into several areas that are used for retail space, display gardens, and growing areas for both sun-loving and shade-loving trees. There are irrigation systems, fences, a koi pond, and heavy equipment and buildings that need to be maintained, so there's always plenty of work to do, and the cooler months are a great time to do it. That said, we'd much rather be talking to customers, so come on out and see us!



This big 'Fire Dragon' was one of many trees we dug and potted in January.



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Visit our website!