



METRO MAPLES

January 2021 Newsletter



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We have new inventory and it's still a great time to plant!



CORAL BARK CULTIVARS

These varieties offer year-round interest and work really well in our climate.



TIME TO PLANT!

What's the best way to plant a maple tree?

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

With 2020 behind us, and after having a brief break for the winter holiday, we are back open for business (by appointment) and excited to pick up where we left off in December.

2020 provided plenty of challenges, but we're grateful to all of you who have stuck with us and continued to support Metro Maples throughout the year. Our sincere hope is that we were able to reward your patience and loyalty with an outstanding customer experience and amazing trees for your gardens.

Our latest shipment of trees arrived from Oregon just before Christmas, so the nursery is full of great looking trees ready to find a home in your landscape. We're continuing to be open by appointment from Monday through Saturday from 8:00am - 2:00pm. We'd love to see you!



Happy New Year! New trees are here!

CORAL BARK CULTIVARS

We currently carry several different cultivars of Japanese maple that fall under the category of 'Coral Bark.'

Each of these is different enough to merit its own unique cultivar name, but all of them have quite a lot in common.

Each of them will feature bright green spring and summer color, golden yellow fall color, and brightly colored bark in winter that gets brighter the colder it gets.

Each variety grows to a different height, but all tend to have a similar shape, growing upright and vase-shaped.



'Sango kaku' is the most common and the largest, growing to 15' tall.

'Beni kawa' is 10-12' tall.

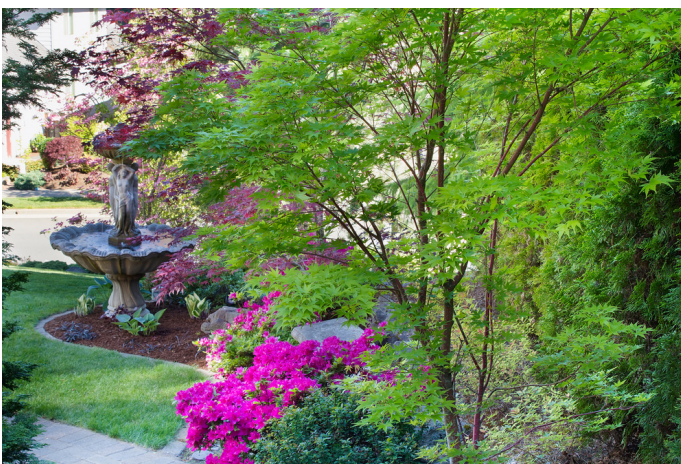
'Winter Orange' is 10-12' tall as well, but has a brighter "orangey-red" bark.

'Aka kawa hime' quickly reaches 8-10' tall, and seems to really like growing in Texas.

'Winterflame' is a bit slower growing 6' tall.



Fall color on the coral bark maples tends to be a bright yellow, which in some years can deepen into oranges and reds late in the season.



Summer color on coral barks is a bright, vibrant green. The bark is less colorful in the summer, but puts on a show in the colder months of the year.

'Bihou' is a 10' tree with bright yellow bark instead of the typical red.

All will want some afternoon shade, but are more sun-tolerant than the average Japanese maple.

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

PLANTING TECHNIQUES

Without a doubt, the best time to plant trees in Texas is in the fall and early winter. The main reason for this being that this gives the trees the maximum amount of time to grow roots in the ground without having to worry about growing and maintaining leaves.

The more roots the tree is able to grow, the better it can absorb water and nutrients from the soil, and the stronger and healthier it can grow in the spring and summer.



Illustrated above: a pretty good way to meet a local orthopedic surgeon. We'd advise you to not do any of this.



Not sure what he said to offend the family but now there's nobody there to call for an ambulance and the tree still isn't in the hole. Unsurprising, as his technique ranges from 'poor' to 'quite poor.'

This isn't to say that spring is a bad time to plant trees -- just that it isn't as perfect as the fall.

In North Texas, our soil never gets cold enough to freeze, so there's no risk of cold damaging the maples. Japanese maples planted in the ground are hardy to well below 0 F.

The dormant season is also the best time to transplant trees in your landscape. When transplanting a tree, you'll inevitably damage some roots. Doing this while the tree is dormant gives the tree months to recover and grow new roots in its new location prior to leafing out in the spring. More roots means more capacity to drink water, which means better growth and healthier trees.

Our North Texas soils tend to be dense with a lot of clay. While these soils are plenty fertile, they tend not to drain very well, so it's best to amend them a bit to improve the aeration and ability for water to drain away.

The best and simplest way we've found to accomplish this is to mix in a little organic matter with the native soil when you plant the tree, and to leave the root flare of the tree (where the trunk flares out and the roots begin) several inches higher than the surrounding soil.



This is an illustration of 'organic matter' that you might use to amend the soil when planting your maple.

The hole you dig should be 50% wider than the root ball, and not quite as deep. A wider shallow hole is preferable to a narrow, deep one.

At the farm we use composted pine bark, but any commercially available "Tree & Shrub Mix" will work perfectly well. A 50/50 mix of that organic material and your native soil (the stuff you just pulled out of the hole) will give the tree an easier environment in which to grow roots, and give the roots a chance to transition more seamlessly into the soil.

When planting this time of year there's no need to fertilize, and no need to apply any root stimulator products. The tree will root out just fine on its own, and will be well-equipped to handle the upcoming growing season!



This is a deceptively photographed (it's actually only about 8' tall) but lovely maple in the Portland Japanese Garden. This is one of the most photographed Japanese maples in the country if not the world. Whoever planted this one did a great job. No complaints here.



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