



METRO MAPLES

July 2019 Newsletter



AUGUST SALE!

20% off 1, 2, & 3 gallon containers for the month of August!



TWOMBLY'S RED SENTINEL

This dense, lush, shrubby cultivar puts on a show.



COMPANIONS

Some ideas for plants that will complement and bring out the best in your maples.

AUGUST SALE!

One of the more unique aspects of Metro Maples is our huge collection of 1, 2, and 3 gallon Japanese maples. We currently have over 120 cultivars in stock, and thousands of individual trees, including some new names we've added in 2019.

We want our trees to be enjoyed by as many people as possible. And while summer isn't the ideal time to plant large specimen trees, containerized trees can be easily cared for until prime planting time in Fall.

So, we are having our first **SALE** in years. For the entire month of August, we will be offering **20% off** our already low prices on 1, 2, and 3 gallon pots in our nursery area. Sale prices will be \$20, \$28, and \$36, respectively (plus tax).



The sale begins on Thursday, August 1st and will run through Saturday, August 31st. It'll probably be hot, but come see us anyway!



Spring color on a mature 'Twombly's Red Sentinel'
Photo Credit: www.BambooBontanicals.ca

TWOMBLY'S RED SENTINEL

Acer palmatum 'Twombly's Red Sentinel' is a dense, columnar, red-leafed Japanese maple growing to 8-10' tall by 4-6' wide in 10 years and puts on a spectacular show in both spring and fall.

This cultivar was first discovered in the late 1970s as a "witches' broom" mutation on a 'Bloodgood' Japanese maple at a church in eastern Connecticut by Ken Twombly of Twombly's Nursery in Monroe, CT.

Witches' brooms tend to become dwarf trees when grafted, but this tree takes on a very upright, narrow shape, which is highly unusual if not unique among Japanese maples.

The smallish leaves emerge a brilliant pink-red which persist through March and April before deepening to a bronze-green for the summer, and then returning to a brilliant crimson in autumn.



'Twombly's Red Sentinel' in Summer
Photo credit: www.livingthecountrylife.com



The density of the foliage means you'll get a ton of color packed into a very small area. While the solid, shrubby, columnar shape isn't what most people think of when they imagine a Japanese maple, it can still be a striking accent in the landscape.

We currently have 'Twombly's Red Sentinel' in 5 gallon pots for \$125, in 45 gallon pots from \$395, and some absolutely massive specimens grown in Oregon that are easily 15' x 8' for \$1,895.

We currently have 6 of these huge specimens. We'd be happy to sell you one, but are secretly hoping that one or two stick around for the fall.

COMPANIONS

We talk a lot about maples. In fact, it's almost all we talk about. But we know there is more to a beautiful garden than a collection of Japanese maples (although that's a great start).

We're often asked if maples can be planted near other plants (they absolutely can) and what types of plants would bring out the best in a garden that features Japanese maples.

So we thought we'd take this opportunity to talk about some plants and shrubs that **we do not sell** but that might help you take your garden to the next level.



Most of the plants in this picture are not maples. We would point out, however, that the prettiest one is.



The silver and purple tones in this Japanese Painted Fern would really complement a dark purple maple in summer.

Ferns work really well under maples. We've had particularly good luck with Japanese Painted Fern, Autumn Fern, and Holly Fern specifically, but all ferns tend to prefer shady locations with damp, well-drained soil. Their delicate foliage goes well with maples.

If contrast is more your thing, there are some brightly colored varieties of Coleus, Coral Bells, and Begonia that would really pop when paired with a bright green maple like 'Summer Gold' or 'Orange Dream'.



This coleus would work great with a bright green maple.



Purple Oxalis can spread pretty quickly on its own, but works great as a groundcover in a shady garden.

Low growing ground covers like Purple Oxalis, Ajuga, or Dwarf Mondo grass can complement the purples and bronze colors of some maples. Don't confuse Dwarf Mondo Grass with liriope ("monkey grass") which looks similar but can be invasive and very difficult to control.

SHRUBS

Plenty of larger perennial shrubs can be planted with Japanese maples to great effect.

'Emerald Spreader' Japanese Yew is a terrific evergreen with dark green foliage and a low, spreading habit. Its needles are relatively soft, and it enjoys growing in the shade. It maxes out at 2-3 feet tall, and 8-10 feet wide at maturity.



We like yew.

Hydrangeas are another shade-tolerant shrub, but the popular blue and pink-flowered "mophead" varieties tend to be quite thirsty. We really like the lower maintenance requirements of the oakleaf hydrangeas, and in particular the dwarf forms like 'Pee Wee' and 'Sikes Dwarf'. These 4' shrubs turn a deep burgundy red in fall, and their white flowers in summer will go well with any variety of maple.



The dried flowers and fall color on Oakleaf Hydrangeas can be absolutely terrific.

No discussion of companion plants for Japanese maples would be complete without mentioning azaleas.

Our gardens at Metro Maples are covered in azaleas of all colors and sizes. Our sandy soil suits them beautifully, but if you have clay soil, you'll need to do some serious amending and acidifying up front.

Most bloom once in spring and are absolutely amazing when they do. Bloom times, colors, and patterns vary widely depending on the cultivar. Most are evergreen and are a classic element in traditional Japanese gardens.



A beautiful old maple and a blooming azalea in a traditional Japanese garden that we had absolutely no part of, but is very lovely nevertheless.

There are countless other plants and shrubs and trees that would make excellent companions to Japanese maples. Impatiens, gardenia, loropetalum, pittosporum, dogwood, and jasmine are just a few more examples. But, since this is an email newsletter and not an unabridged encyclopedia of North American flora, we should probably wrap it up.

We hope this quick overview has sparked some ideas, and that you'll consider adding a few more maples (**which we do sell**) to your landscape this fall. In these dog days of summer, it can be fun to imagine ways to fill out the garden by using contrasting and complementing plants (**which we do not sell**) to bring even more color and structure to your garden.



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