



METRO MAPLES

June 2019 Newsletter



THANK YOU

A moment of gratitude to our customers.



PAPERBARK MAPLE

An extraordinary maple with incredible bark and amazing fall color.



JUNE STORMS

Some tips for dealing with storm damage in your landscape.

THANK YOU

As unbelievable as it may be, we are now at the halfway mark of 2019.

So far, this year has been a lot of fun for all of us at Metro Maples. We've had the great fortune to meet a lot of new friends who have become 'regular' customers and have added multiple trees to their gardens and landscapes.

It's hard to describe how much joy we get from introducing folks to these trees that we love so much, and to see them inspired by so many sizes, shapes, and colors. It's an awful lot of fun, and makes our job so worthwhile.

So thank you all for your support and your enthusiasm this year, and don't forget to come see us again soon. The dog days of summer may be upon us, but prime planting season is just around the corner, and the time goes faster every year.





The Fall color on Paperbark maple is tough to beat. This tree lives just outside our front gate.

THE PAPERBARK MAPLE

While it isn't technically a Japanese maple, the Paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*) is a terrific tree that has earned a place in our inventory and in our gardens.

The Paperbark maple is indigenous to central China and was first introduced to the west around the turn of the last century.

The most noteworthy characteristic of the Paperbark maple is (obviously) its bark, which peels in curled ribbons that resemble shavings from a woodworker's plane. The bark is bright copper and cinnamon in color with a smooth texture.

The leaves are green in spring and summer with a silver, slightly fuzzy underside. They are trifoliate, which reminds some of poison ivy, but the tree is completely harmless. Fall color is typically a brilliant red.



Thankfully, this is not poison ivy. Paperbark maple in summer.

The Paperbark maple can be grown as an understory tree and would appreciate a little shelter from the hottest afternoon sun, but we would consider this variety more sun tolerant than its Japanese cousins and would recommend it for spaces that are just a

bit too sunny for a Japanese maple, but not sunny enough for a Shantung or Trident maple to thrive.

We currently have Paperbark maples in 2, 3, 10, and 15 gallon sizes. Prices range from as low as \$35 to \$225.



This Paperbark maple in our display garden. We find its exfoliating bark quite appealing. (See what I did there?)

JUNE STORMS

Texas weather remains unpredictable, and the recent weeks have been no exception. Several rounds of severe weather have wreaked havoc on trees, homes, and landscapes across north Texas.

If your larger landscape trees (Oaks, Elms, Ashes, etc.) were damaged in the recent storms, our advice would be to consult with a certified arborist to determine what kinds of corrective action might need to be taken to ensure the safety of your trees and your property.



Sights like this were all too common in DFW neighborhoods over the last few weeks.

Japanese maples in Texas are typically planted as understory trees, which is a fancy way of saying they are protected from our intense summer sun by larger trees (the overstory) growing above them. When the overstory is damaged, falling limbs can break branches in the smaller trees below.

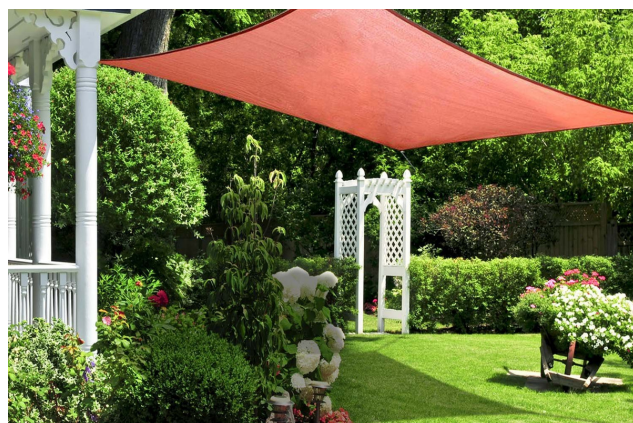
It would be wise to check your maples for signs of damage. Where you find broken and torn limbs, prune them back to healthy, live tissue. This will create cleaner wounds that heal faster and prevent disease.

The amount of sunlight reaching your shade-loving plants may also have changed dramatically. The timing of this couldn't be much worse. We have had a mild and wet spring and early summer, which likely led to some fairly ambitious growth. Now, we have the hottest and driest months just ahead of us, and some of our trees are now missing that vital protection from above.

It may take some time for this to have an effect, but you will likely see your trees respond to the change in sun exposure. Leaves may dry out, even to the point of entire branches losing their leaves as the tree tries to establish a new balance of root mass and foliage given the new conditions.

Keeping the tree watered will be important, but remember that there is such a thing as too much water, and a tree's roots can only drink so much.

If you have plans to plant a new large shade tree this fall, you might be able to save your understory trees by providing them some temporary cover in the form of a shade cloth, screen, or even a (secured) patio umbrella.



It might not be a perfect solution, but it's not the worst idea I've ever had. You don't even want to hear that one.



This article is kind of a downer. So here is a picture of a squirrel looking much more thoughtful than he probably is.

But won't that look a little silly?

It might. But we only have 2-3 months until the worst summer heat is behind us, and by helping your tree in the short term, you may be able to preserve all its branches and continue to enjoy it for many years to come.

If you aren't planning to replant a large tree, you may have to make some more dramatic changes.

Can I just dig up and move my tree to a shadier spot?

Yes, but not now. It is quite risky to do it this time of year. It's much safer to wait until the late fall or winter to dig up a tree.

The reason for this is it's nearly impossible to dig the tree up without cutting through roots. Fewer roots and hotter temperatures is a bad combination. By digging in the fall, you give the tree a chance to regrow roots when there is significantly less demand on the tree and you'll get much better results. You also get the perk of not digging in triple-digit heat.



Digging trees is less fun than it looks, but is much easier when it's 50 degrees and breezy.

We hope your Japanese maples will adjust quickly to their new growing conditions, and that we've all seen the last storm damage of the year. We also hope (as we always do) for milder summer temperatures, regular rainfall, and an early autumn. As always, if you have questions about anything we've discussed here, please don't hesitate to ask.



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