



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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Stunning Show of Color

Jonathan Anderson, Johnson's Ridge Rd. Nursery Mgr.

I don't believe there is another group of plants more worthy of high status in the garden than Japanese Maples. Originating in central parts of Asia, these maples provide a stunning show of color and will leave you wondering where you might have room in your landscape to incorporate one.

Whether it's a variety with an upright branching habit, or the ever-so-graceful laceleaf variety which mimics the look of a peaceful waterfall, you'll want to find room for at least one of these beauties in your garden. As you contemplate where you can manage your very own, here are some new varieties in our nursery for you to consider.

Orangeola Laceleaf Japanese Maple

If you're looking for a picturesque, weeping variety that will stop you in your tracks, look no further than the Orangeola Laceleaf Maple. While this tree is typically more upright than most weeping maples, its mounding habit is by far the best of all. Leaves emerge in spring as orange followed by green in the summer. For the finale in fall, leaves are colored with an overlay of green, orange and red. Its mature size is around 6-8 ft. tall and wide.

Golden Full Moon Japanese Maple

Maybe you're saying "I'm not sold on laceleaf varieties. What else do you have?" Consider the Golden Full Moon Maple with outstanding color in spring, summer and fall. This variety has a standard maple leaf that is bright yellow-green in spring and summer, followed by layers of orange and red in the fall. The wonderful thing about this tree is that it is very slow growing and only gets 8-10 ft. tall in a ten-year period.

Eskimo Sunset Maple

Although it's not a Japanese Maple, Eskimo Sunset Maple is so exotic that it, too, deserves special status in the garden. If you can imagine, think of a leaf with a layer of purple on the underside; with tints of pink, orange, green and white on top, making a dappled effect. To truly enjoy the full effect of this color, plant it in morning sun away from afternoon heat. You have never seen anything quite like this tree, I guarantee that. Eventual mature size is 20 ft. tall by 15 ft. wide.

I encourage you to seriously think about planting a Japanese Maple. It will make your garden and anything you plant around it really stand out! Stop by any of our stores to see our great selection of ornamental maples. ■