

Introduction to Japanese Maples

Scott Smith



Today we are not discussing our native Maple trees



Acer Palmatum

Acer palmatum, commonly called Japanese maple, is a deciduous shrub or small tree that typically grows to 10-25' (infrequently to 40') tall. It is native to Japan, Korea and China.

A few of the subgroups

- Dissectums: Lacy leaves which are very deeply divided lobes
- Upright Palmatum: Large leaves with coarsely toothed margins
- Linearilobum: Very narrow, straplike leaf lobes

The planting site will help determine which variety to plant

- **Full Sun?**

- In Arkansas full sun is a “**No-No.**”
- Afternoon Sun? Full afternoon sun is the **worst.**



Morning sun and afternoon shade is the best. Japanese Maples are an understory tree like a dogwood.



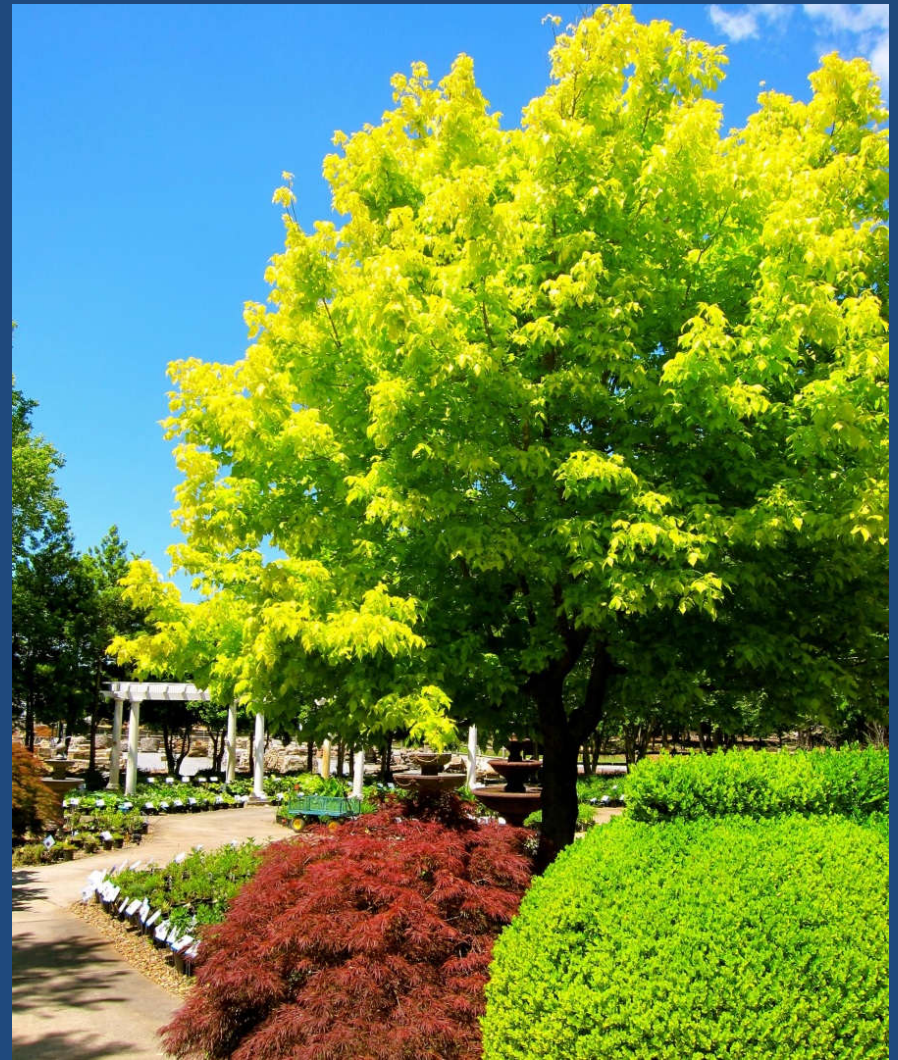
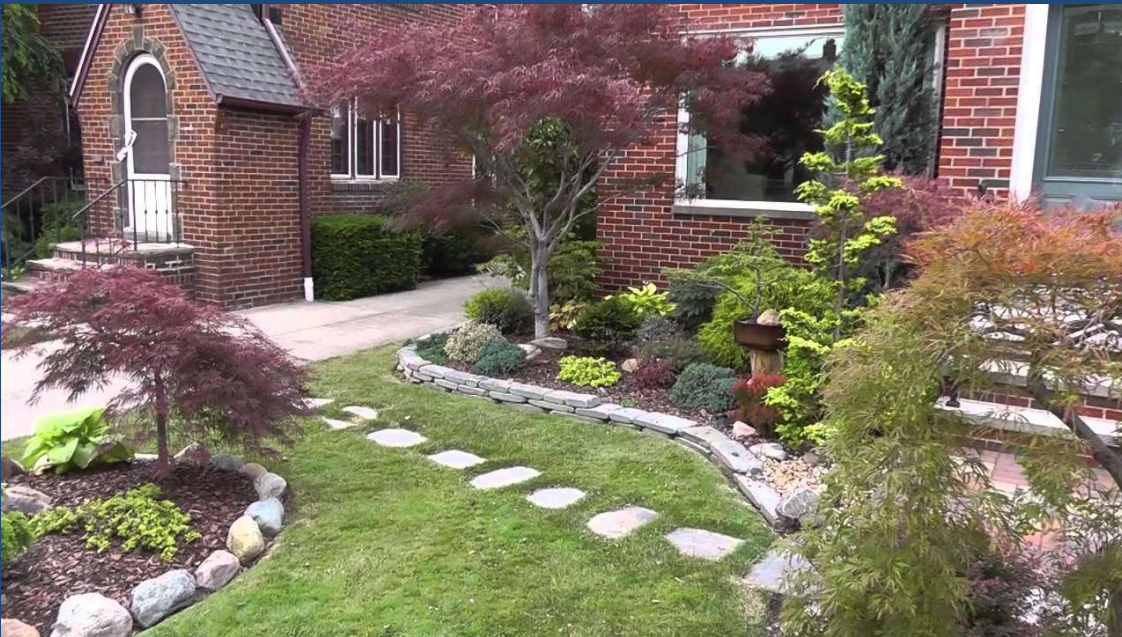
Use in the landscape

- Specimen or Companion to a specimen.
- Groupings of Japanese Maples. Upright form with weeping form.
- Planted in containers. Most often the weeping variety.
- Rock gardens.
- Don't forget the impact of night time illumination

Specimen



Companion planting



Groupings of Japanese Maples. Upright form with weeping form.



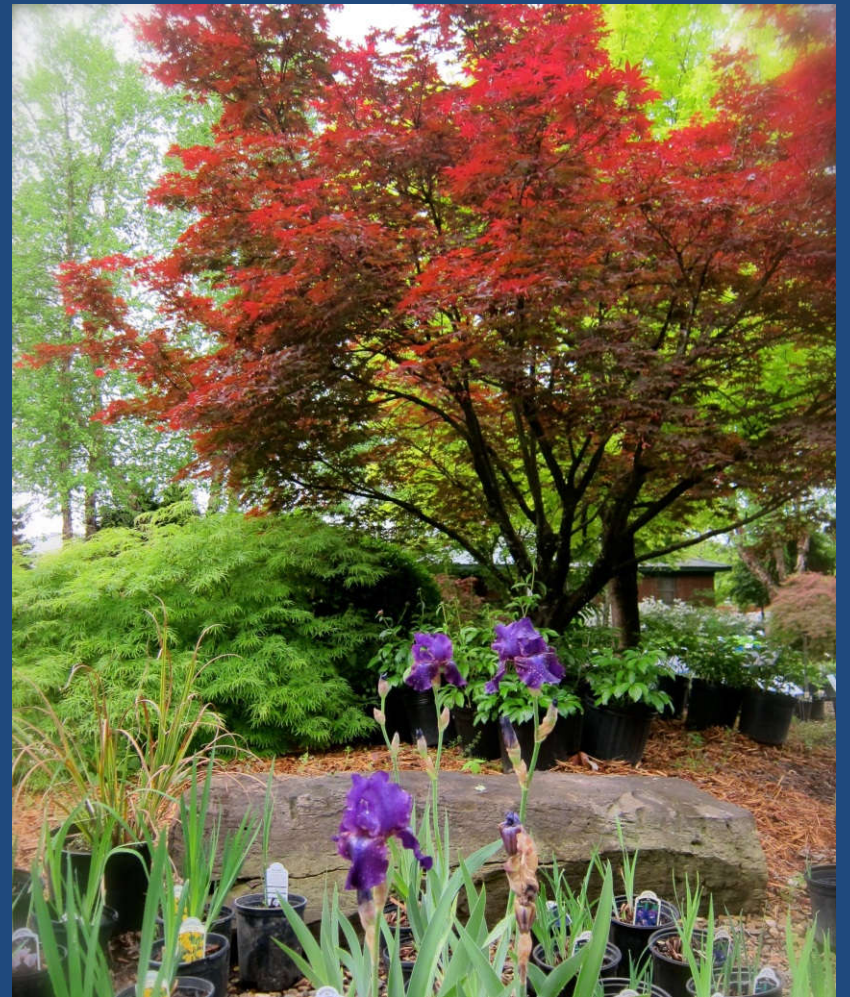
Planted in containers.



Night time illumination



Bloodgood



Burgundy Lace



Crimson Queen



Red Emperor (Emperor 1)



Fall



Fireglow



Garnet



Indaba Shidare



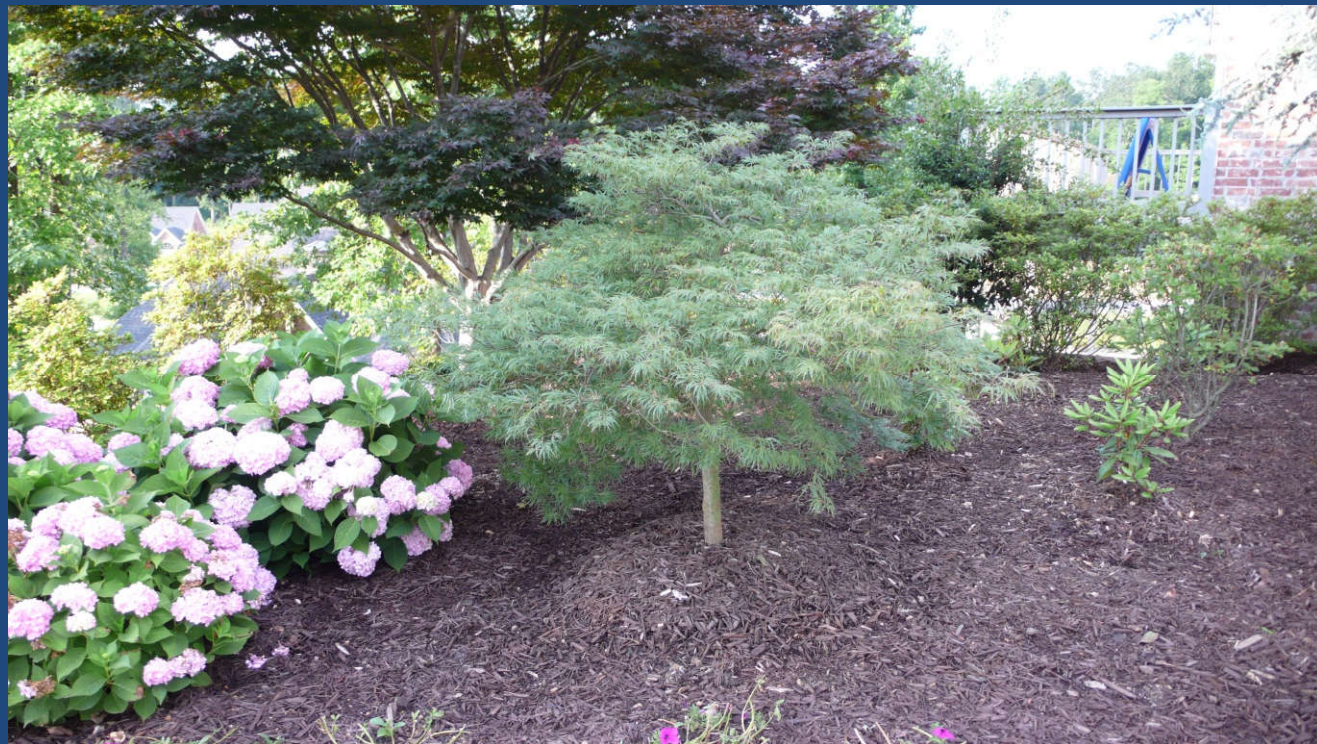
Orange Flame



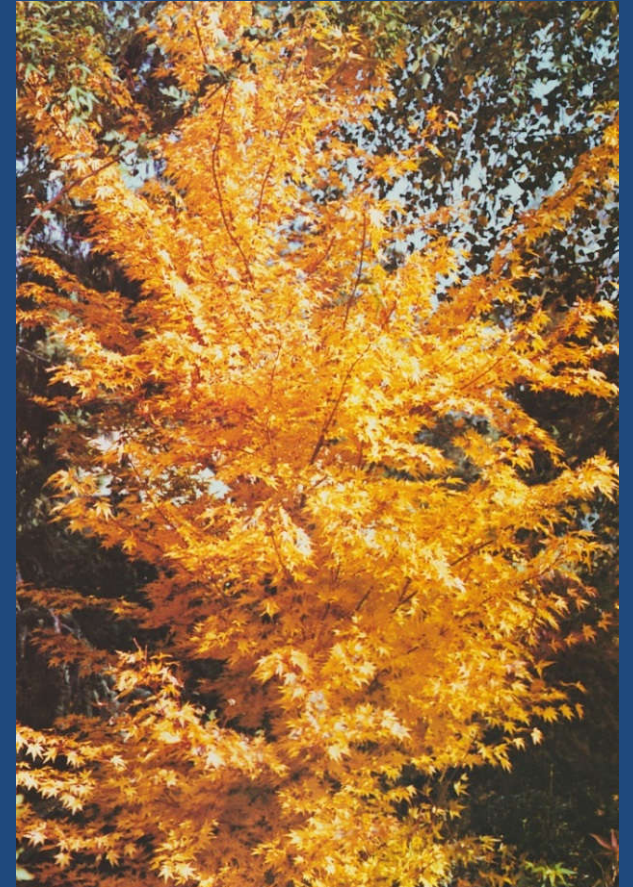
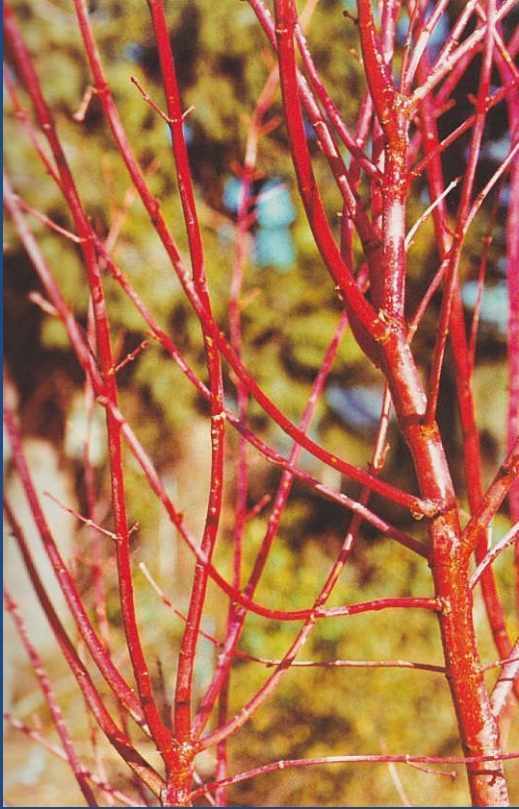
Scott Mallory patented
Orange Flame - Oregon



Pink Lace



Sango kaku



Fall

Seiryu



Spring



ShiShigashira



Tamuke yama



Trompenburg



Viridis



Waterfall



How to plant

- When to plant. Containers and B&B year around.
- Sun exposure. Wind?
- Size of hole. Do you have a sprinkler system? Perc test will tell you to raise the plant or move it.
- Compost – Easily grown in moist, organically rich, well-drained soils
- Mulching
- To stake or not to stake

Care after Planting

- Water need to be moist and not wet and not dry. Feel the soil.
- Pest – In Arkansas there are very few.
- Disease – In Arkansas a healthy tree will have almost no disease. Sunscald. Tip burn. Mechanical damage. Verticillium Wilt
- Zone hardiness. 4 (in a microclimate) through 9. If you are using a pot you need adjust by 2 zones. Insulation of pots works.
- Slow release fertilizer with 1st application well after last frost. Typically the last week of April.
- Fertilizer once in spring will do it.
- Prune in January and February. Light pruning in May.
- Weed-eater blight

Bringing it all together in the landscape



Portland Japanese Garden Oregon



Questions



Many of the photographs used in this presentation are from the book Vertrees & Gregory, Japanese Maples The Complete Guide to Selection and Cultivation: Timber Press, Inc, 2009.

Alternatives

Alternatives for sunner locations

Kelly's Gold Maple

Paper Bark Maple

Shade Companion

Styrax upright and weeping pink

Kousa Wolf eye

Sent to us by Danny at Two rivers



Paper Bark Maple



Picture of Kelly's gold in spring



Verticillium

- Fungus that affects many different host plants with one being the Japanese Maple.
- Early signs: Wilting and dying back from the margins of the leaves.
- Then the shoots and branches die back
- Occasionally the whole tree. It may take one year or several for this to take place.