

## Acer shirasawanum

Mounded bushy tree with rounded leaves.

**Aureum:** Pale green/yellow leaves that turn red in autumn.

**Autumn Moon:** Golden yellow-green leaves with a pink bloom. Orange/pink in autumn.

## Containers

Choose a container that is bigger than the pot that the tree is supplied in. Place some crocks (broken terracotta pieces or gravel) over the drainage holes before planting to prevent the compost from blocking the hole.

Use a mixture of John Innes Ericaceous compost with a few handfuls of grit or gravel to fill the container. Take care not to bury the stem and do not plant deeper than the original level in the pot.

Raise the pot up on feet to prevent the drainage hole blocking. Water often in summer and do not allow the compost to dry out, taking care not to saturate the compost. Regular checking will soon allow you to judge when to water.

Re-pot occasionally in spring or autumn (every 2-3 years) to refresh the compost or move into a slightly larger container.

Feeding with a slow release fertiliser e.g. Osmocote once a year will provide a balanced feed.

If you require any further information, please ask our outdoor plant advisors who will be very happy to help.

### Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm  
Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

### Chessington Garden Centre

Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey, KT9 2NG

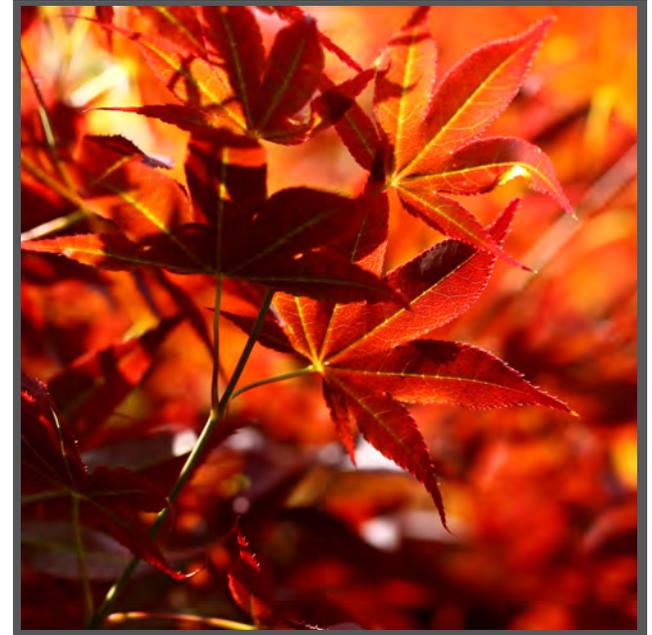
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# Japanese Acer



## Care & Advice Sheet

# No. 6

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

Japanese Acers or Maples are a group of small ornamental trees grown for their elegant shape, delicate leaves and stunning autumn colour. There are over 250 cultivars offering a wide choice from the groups, *Acer palmatum*, *Acer palmatum dissectum* and *Acer shirasawanum*. Some like 'Sango Kaku' are also grown for their coloured bark.

Japanese Acers are generally slow growing and are often used as a specimen tree to add a focal point or seasonal interest. They have a shallow dense root system making them ideal for small gardens and suitable for containers.

## Care

Japanese Acers have delicate leaves and need to be sited carefully especially when young. They thrive in partially shady conditions, sheltered from wind and late spring frosts. Most have leaves that will burn in strong sun and wind. However they tend to be able to tolerate more exposure once established.

## Planting

Ideally they should be planted in soil that has an open texture and drains freely but retains moisture in summer. This can be achieved by adding generous amounts of ericaceous compost and a little horticultural grit or gravel prior to planting. They will not thrive if planted in soil prone to water logging in winter.

Acers prefer an acid soil but can grow well in neutral or slightly alkaline soil provided that it has the other properties required.

## Pruning

Prune if required in late spring or summer to maintain the shape and thin any inner twigs. Any dead twigs will be obvious after the leaves have started to appear and can be removed to keep the tree tidy.

## Varieties

We stock a large number of cultivars in various sizes and have more information and pictures in our Plant Information Centre to help you choose. If you need any further assistance please ask one of our outdoor plant staff.

### **Acer palmatum**

These are upright growing trees and shrubs, ranging from dwarf varieties to wide spreading shrubs with willowy foliage. One tree that has reached 37ft was planted in 1850 so bear in mind that they grow relatively slowly!

**Asahi Zuru:** New leaves are variegated with pink and white, which persists until autumn.

**Bloodgood (AGM):** Deep purple leaves that keep their colour in summer, turns scarlet.

**Kagiri-nishiki (syn. *Roseomarginatum*):** Blue green leaves margined white and pink, turning pink and red in autumn.

**Katsura:** Pale yellow with orange / red tones, green in summer turning back to orange.

**Orange Dream:** Brilliant orange in spring, later turning straw yellow then pale green. Distinctive lime green bark.

**Osakazuki (AGM):** Lime green leaves that turn fiery red/crimson

**Sango Kaku (AGM) (syn. *Senkaki*):** Leaves open orange-yellow turning lime green in summer then golden yellow in autumn. Young stems have bright coral coloured bark

**Shindeshojo:** Brilliant ruby young leaves that turn green in summer speckled with white and pink. Orange and red in autumn.

**Skeeters Broom:** Upright stems, Leaves appear bright red with crimson tones in summer and ruby red in autumn.

### **Acer palmatum dissectum**

Mound forming with deeply divided leaves giving the tree a feathery, light appearance. Their shoots point upwards and outwards at first but soon start to fall to produce a weeping effect. This can be enhanced by training the plant upwards when young and later allowing a canopy of cascading branches to form a mushroom shape.

One exception is **Acer palmatum dissectum Seiryu**, which has, an upright growing habit. It has bright green new leaves that turn golden yellow suffused with orange and red tones.

**Atropurpureum:** Red/purple leaves

**Crimson Queen:** Purple leaves that turn orange/green in summer through to gold and orange in autumn.

**Garnet:** Dark red leaves that turn bright scarlet.

**Green Globe:** Bright lime leaves green turning yellow

**Orangeola:** Leaves emerge orange/red turning darker in summer and red/orange in autumn.

**Viridis:** Pale green new leaves that hold their fresh colour through the summer. Turns to gold and yellows into the autumn.