

# Chessington

## Care & Advice

### Japanese Acer

Japanese Acers are generally slow growing and are often used as a specimen tree to add a focal point or seasonal interest



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,



## 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.

This guide has been put together to give a brief outline of the care needed. If you require any further information, please ask our plant advisors who will be very happy to help.

