

Colonial Farm Nursery Autumn 2011

Japanese Maples

Acer palmatum, Japanese maples, are native to Japan, North and South Korea, China, Russia and Mongolia. There are hundreds of cultivars of Japanese maples; upright varieties getting as tall as 25 feet, weeping varieties from 3 feet to 6 feet. Most get a broad, rounded head. One easy way to estimate the mature size of a Japanese maple is to look at the branch structure. If the branches almost immediately start branching out horizontally, the mature size is likely to be under 5 feet. If the tree has some height before the horizontal branching starts, it will probably be 5-10 feet or slightly more. Both these growth patterns suggest that the tree will be more broad than tall. Those trees with upright branching are the ones that will continue that pattern and will likely be 20 feet or more tall. Of course, there is always the "oddball" variety that is a true dwarf but still has upright branching.

Japanese maples sometimes have multiple trunks dividing close to the ground exhibit many different leaf forms and colors. The botanical name *palmatum* refers to its hand-shaped leaves. The Japanese, as well, refer to them as *kaede*, hands of frogs, or *momiji*, hands of babies. These trees are deciduous, meaning they lose their leaves over the winter. They are prized for gorgeous autumn foliage and interesting branch structure, making them truly an all-year specimen. Leaf color ranges from chartreuse to dark green, red to

purple, and even some variegated patterns. The leaves can be large and barely lobed to highly dissected, very lacy leaves.



These delicate leaves are often referred to as 'dissectum', 'filigree' or 'laceleaf'. The bark, as well, can be a focal point, examples being varieties with striped- or coral-colored bark.

The root systems are compact and not invasive, so they are perfect for placing along foundations and walkways or next to ponds. Provide full sun to part shade. Red-leafed varieties hold their red color better is given more sun than shade. Plant them in well-drained soil, and do not over-fertilize. Additionally, they can happily grow in a large container for many years before needing upcanned (moved into a larger pot) or transferred into the ground. Just be sure to have the soil damp before winter freeze to protect the roots. If a warm spell occurs during the winter and the pots unfreeze, water occasionally when the plant becomes dry. In general, you do not want to prune a Japanese maple - chose a variety that fits within the intended space available. It is, however, okay

to remove dead branches or to thin the interior of the tree to expose and sculpt the main branches.



Butterfly Gardens

To create a butterfly garden, you first need to learn something about butterfly habits and requirements. It takes more than just flowers to attract and keep butterflies in your yard. Butterflies need a source of nectar, host plants for the caterpillars, a suitable environment, a place to get warm, somewhere to get additional nutrients not provided by nectar, and a place to watch for a mate.

Source of nectar: Butterflies need a continuous source of nectar, especially in mid and late summer when they are the most active. You should look for annuals, which bloom all summer long, and other plants with abundant blooms. You can supplement butterflies' nectar source by offering them a commercial or homemade feeder or a small plastic saucer with pieces of cut up fruit.

Host plants: Caterpillars are fairly particular about which plants they'll eat. To attract a specific type of butterfly, find out which plant they like the best. Butterflies that can't find the proper egg-laying site will travel elsewhere despite finding a good source of nectar.

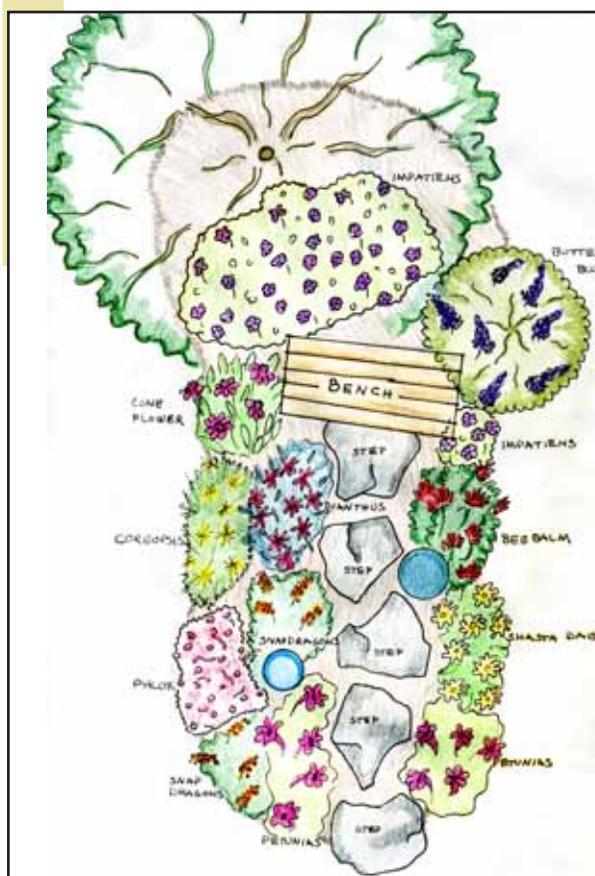
Shelter: Butterflies need some shelter from the wind and weather, so do provide some trees or shrubs in which they can shelter. Dogwoods, oaks, and viburnums are example of suitable plant material that not only attract butterflies but enhance your yard as well. Butterfly houses, while a wonderfully charming addition to the garden, are not really used by butterflies. Just consider them as adornment!

Basking: Butterflies need the sun to warm their wing muscles in order to fly. In the early morning, you won't see too many butterflies about because they are too cold. If you look around your garden, though, you will probably find them sitting with their wings spread out flat to catch the sun. By placing a large, flat stone in your butterfly garden, you give the butterflies someplace to sit and bask.

Puddling: Along with sugar from nectar, butterflies need salt and other minerals for producing mate-attracting pheromones and for mating. They get this from mud puddles or from damp, sandy areas. This is why you see many butterflies at the edge of puddles or ponds. If you have a pond in your yard, use it to create a shallow, damp area for them to puddle. Otherwise, get a plastic or clay saucer and fill it with coarse sand. Mix in a

small amount of salt and some composted manure or mushroom compost. Keep the sand damp.

Mate hunting: Male butterflies search for mates either by *patrolling* or *perching*. Butterflies that patrol, like Monarchs and Sulphurs, fly over areas where females may be feeding or laying eggs. Perching butterflies like Swallowtails and Red Admirals will sit on tall plants around areas likely to attract females. Once they think



they see a female, they fly off to investigate.

Some plants to consider are:

Trees and Shrubs: *abelia*, *azalea*, *betula* (birch), blueberries, *buddleia* (butterfly bush), *clethra* (sweet shrub), *philadelphus* (mock orange), *salix* (willow), *spirea*, *syringa* (lilac), *viburnum*, *wiegela*

Annuals: ageratum, dill, flowering tobacco, four o'clocks, heliotrope, impatiens, lantana, marigolds, nasturtiums, petunias, sunflowers, and verbena

Perennials: *achillea* (yarrow), *asclepias* (butterfly weed), *aster*, *centaurea* (bachelor button), *chrysanthemum*, *coreopsis* (tick seed), *dianthus* (pinks), *echinacea* (coneflower), *gaillardia* (blanket flower), *hemerocallis* (day lily), *leucanthemum* (daisy), *liatris* (gay feather), *lillium* (lily), *lupine*, *mentha* (mints), *monarda* (bee balm), *oenothera* (primrose), *paeonia* (peony), parsley, *phlox*, *rudbekia* (black-eyed Susan), *scabiosa* (pincushion flower), *sedum*, thyme, and viola

Wildflowers: Some of the best butterfly plants are wildflowers like: common milkweeds, Quenn Anne's lace, goldenrods, Joe-Pye weed, nettles, and thistles which you may not want in your garden but could perhaps have in an adjacent wildflower area.

For more information or a larger scale drawing, visit our website at: www.colonialfarmnursery.com

Upcoming Events

We're kicking off our autumn savings event with our annual Customer Appreciation Days on Friday & Saturday, September 23 & 24. Stop by for a **FREE**, freshly grilled hot dog and soda and get **10% off** *all* trees and shrubs, *all* pottery (ceramic, clay and plastic) and garden decor. Enjoy **20% savings** on our in-stock, handcrafted Colonial Creations and our **Buy 2, Get 1 FREE** sale on Christmas craft supplies for making your own wreaths, swags and holiday decor.

Starting Friday, September 23, take advantage of our overstock sale on junipers, hollies, Alberta spruces and more by receiving up to **50% off**, while supplies last.



Sep 23 & 24 — Customer Appreciation Days

Sep 23 - Oct 9 - Colonial Creations Pre-Season Sale

Sep 23 - while supplies last — Overstock Sale

Pick-a-Peck-of-Pickled-Peppers

By now, your vegetable garden should be in full swing, with lots of squashes, cucumbers, tomatoes and peppers ripe for the picking. Perhaps you're even a bit overloaded, and even your neighbors are hiding when they see you coming with another armload of zucchini! So why not save some of this bounty for the winter by making some pickles? You don't need a pressure canner for acidic foods, like pickles, you just need canning jars and lids and a deep pot to boil some water in. To process pickles, heat the clean jars first by filling them with very hot water. Drain and fill with the hot pickles. Wipe the jar rim so it is clean and dry (this is important for creating a proper seal), place a **new** lid on the jar and secure with a screw-on cap. Submerge the prepared jars into boiling water that is at least 1/2" over the tops of the jars and boil them for the recommended processing time. Remove the jars and allow them to sit and cool. As they are cooling, you should hear a pop — this is the lid making a firm seal onto the jar. If you don't hear a pop, your jars didn't seal and you shouldn't store the pickles on a shelf — either can put them in the fridge to eat or reprocess them, making sure you have a clean, dry rims and new lids. Once the jars are cooled, you can take off the screw caps. Check the seal by touching the "pop" button on the top — it should be depressed, with no give to it, and by gently tugging on the lid which, obviously, should not lift off. Try this recipe from the Ball Canning Book:

Combine vegetables in a large bowl. Dissolve salt in 4 quarts of water. Pour salt water over vegetables; let stand 12-18 hours in a cool place. Drain; rinse and drain thoroughly. Combine sugar, flour and turmeric in a large saucepot. Gradu-

ally add 1/2 cup of water, stirring until smooth. Stir in mustard and vinegar. Cook until the sauce coats spoon and mixture thickens. Add vegetables; simmer 15 minutes. Pack hot pickles and liquid into hot jars, leaving 1/4" headspace (the space between the top of the food and the inside of the lid). Remove air bubbles. Adjust 2-piece caps. Process pints 10 minutes in a boiling-water bath. Yield: about 8 pints.

Mixed Mustard Pickles

1 1/2 pounds cucumbers, cut into 1/2" slices
1 quart green tomato wedges
3 cups zucchini or cauliflower, cut into 1/2" chunks
3 cups each green & red peppers, halved & cut into wedges
2 cups onions, halved & cut into wedges
1 cup canning salt
4 quarts plus 1/2 c water, divided
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup flour
1 tablespoon turmeric
1/2 cup prepared mustard
5 cups vinegar

Autumn Decorations

Step up your fall decorating with mums, pansies, bales of straw, ornamental cabbages and kales, pumpkins, gourds, autumn decor and handcrafted Colonial Creations. This year's selection of mums in 8" and 12" pots is:

Andrea - orange 2-tone
Bethany - bright yellow
Bold Vanessa - dark pink, almost purple
Brandy - red
Casia - cinnamon bronze
Dawn - yellow
Dazzling Stacy - yellow and orange with red tips
Edana - red with yellow center
Electra Amber - yellow bronze combination
Emma Orange - orange bi-color
Emma Salmon - 2-tone salmon
Foxy Marjorie - red
Frosty Cheryl - white with yellow center
Glenda - red
Golden Marilyn - rich yellow
Helen - red
Hestia Hot Red - bright red
Janice - yellow
Linda - white
Lindsay - pink
Marilyn - ivory
Marsha - pinkish-purple daisy
Mary - yellow
Miranda - orange-bronze

Nutty Fiona - bronze
Pink Gigi - pale pink with darker pink center
Raquel - dark red
Regina - red daisy
Sly Jenna - red
Soft Cheryl - light 2-tone pink
Sparkling Cheryl - yellow
Spicy Cheryl - orange
Sunny Tasha - bright yellow daisy
Symphony Pink - pink
Vanna Snow Daisy - white with yellow eye
Wanda - purple 2011
Wilma - white



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Pansies

As cool weather plants, you can plant pansies in the fall when you plant your mums. They will survive the winter and bloom for you again in the spring!

Deep Blue Blotch
White Blotch
Red Blotch
Yellow Blotch
Orange Blotch
True Blue
Deep Orange

Fire
Beaconsfield
Yellow with Purple Wings
White
Pure Violet
Pure Primrose
Pure Red

Neon Violet
Colussus Yellow
Rose Fire

Violas:
Halloween II
Orange Duet

304-263-5232 www.colonialfarmnursery.com

Mon-Sat: 9am-6pm Sun: 11am-5pm Beginning October: Mon-Sat: 9am-5pm Sun: 11am-5pm