

BUCHANAN'S

NATIVE PLANTS

Japanese Maple Selection and Care

Buchanan's carries a wide variety of Japanese maples famous for their graceful growth patterns and brilliantly colorful leaves. The leaf color intensifies with new growth and cool nights. Select a tree with the size, shape and color that will show up best in your landscape.

Sunlight

In our climate, Japanese Maples are best used as understory trees and should be protected from midday sun. They need some early morning sun to keep them colorful, but not so much that they burn or die. Best results occur when the maple is shaded from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the summer.

Soil, Water and Fertilizer

- Japanese Maples prefer a slightly acidic, well-draining soil. **Use Acidified Cotton Burr Compost** and **Pine Bark Mulch** to lower the soil's pH.
- These trees are not drought tolerant. New trees should be provided with supplemental hand watering at least once per week until they are established. During times of high heat and drought, always provide Japanese maples with supplemental watering.
- Fertilize quarterly with an acidifying, slow release, organic fertilizer like **MicroLife Azalea**.

See our [tip sheets, "Planting Trees and Shrubs"](#) and

["Follow-up Tree Care"](#) for more general information.