



Japanese Maples

SOIL CARE, FERTILIZING, AND PRUNING

SOIL CARE

- Good drainage is key
- Neutral to Acidic soil is best (no highly alkaline soil)
- Amend soil as needed

FERTILIZER

- 15% nitrogen or less, 15-10-8 (N-P-K)
- Liquid fertilizer can be applied once per month: March - August (Do not apply any liquid fertilizer after August)
- Granular slow release fertilizer – apply as recommended March to May (Do not apply any granular fertilizer after May)
- Don't push maples too hard with too much fertilizer, it will produce longer, twiggy growth and may not allow them to go into proper dormancy in winter
- Too much nitrogen can decrease desired variegation in maples

PRUNING

- December to February
- Limb up off the ground if desired to view more of the trunk
- Remove gray deadwood, crossing branches, and branches that are too close together
- Thinning technique – do entire branch cuts down to main stem/ trunk
- Open the center of the tree to allow more light and air flow
- Don't make flush cuts, rather leave 1/2 inch growth from where branch meets stem/ trunk, it will help heal the pruned areas

