

Japanese maple

Acer palmatum

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

5–8

SUNLIGHT

Part Shade

HEIGHT

6–25 ft

DEER

Resistant

AT A GLANCE

Japanese maples want morning sun, afternoon shade, well-drained soil, and to be left alone. The two failure modes that account for most dead Japanese maples are leaf scorch (planted too sunny in zones 7+) and verticillium wilt (planted in heavy wet soil). Get the site right and the tree is almost maintenance-free.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/japanese-maple-care/>

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