

JAPANESE MAPLE

Acer palmatum

The Japanese Maple is the most widely grown maple in gardens and parks. It is valued for its compact size, delicate ferny foliage, and brilliant fall coloring, from rich gold to deepest blood red. It grows to 12-15 feet, branching low, with strong sinuous branches and a dense, rounded crown. Although more tolerant of warmer climates than most maples, it needs shade and shelter or its leaves may shrivel. There are more than 300 cultivars ranging from a rock-garden miniature to vigorous small trees, with a great variety of leaf shape, size and coloration. Nearly all need to be grafted to preserve their characteristics, so they can be expensive. The leaves are rounded in outline, with 5-7 deep, taper-pointed, sharply toothed lobes, to 4" long and wide. The bark is gray-brown and smooth. The flowers are small, red-purple in upright to drooping clusters in spring as the young leaves emerge. The fruit is green or red winged and 3\8" long.



One Arbor Day Japanese Maple was planted in 2005 inside the entrance at the east gatehouse; one was planted in 2006 to the west of the carriage house near Valley Road; and a special planting was commissioned by a private contributor for a Greenleaf Weeping Japanese Maple on Arbor Day 2003 and placed near the family plot VV, Lot #7 between Trinity Ave. and the London Planetrees along the wall. There are many mature Japanese maples throughout the Baber Cemetery. There are 2 along the Baber Ave. entrance and 2 along Trinity Ave. on the east side of Baber Ave. And there are many west of Baber Ave. to the 16th St. entrance, several on the east side to the 12th St. property line, and 2 near the chapel. These trees, with their graceful curving limbs and trunks, are magnificent to view and photograph in any season. They represent many cultivars. The Charles Baber Cemetery has the most beautiful and largest concentration of Japanese Maple and Sunset Red Maple per acre than any other location in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

