

# I Can't Grow a Japanese Maple...Baloney!

By Joe Covington

People tell me every year that they just can't grow Japanese Maples. That's really sad since they are only the most brilliantly vibrant, colorful small trees on the planet! On top of that, they can be grown almost anywhere in the United States and most certainly in Texas.

The secret in the DFW area is to give them what they need to thrive. Find a spot that is shady in the afternoon, plant them early in order to establish roots, and mulch like crazy.

Japanese maples will acclimate to the heat as they develop extensive root growth, but regular watering in the summertime is essential to reduce leaf-burn. And because they are slower growing than some trees, organic fertilizer is more to their liking.

Varieties for just about every look and landscape need are available:

- Upright or dramatically weeping growth habit
- Mature sizes from 5 to 20 feet
- Leaf textures ranging from delicate finely cut "laceleaf" type, to the classic maple-shape everyone loves
- Best of all, the foliage colors are amazing. You can choose from the deepest crimson to the brightest chartreuse greens, and everything in between.

Japanese maples are truly awesome! That's why I have thirteen of them in my yard, and I'm itching for fourteen.

*Joe Covington is the owner of Covington's Nursery & Landscape Co. at 5518 President George Bush Hwy @ SH66 in Rowlett.*

## Add beauty to your Garden with Japanese Maples!



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