

Bonsai Japanese Maple

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Introduction

For a majority of men and women who are bonsai enthusiasts, the Japanese Maple bonsai tree is extremely popular. It is a beautiful bonsai tree and what a lot of people think of when they picture bonsai trees in their head.

It is a highly recommended type of bonsai tree for those individuals who are just starting the bonsai tree hobby. The Japanese Maple bonsai tree does not require a lot of maintenance and care.

As well, the Japanese Maple bonsai tree, when indoors, can really liven up a room in a house or an office. It is especially beautiful during the autumn months because the leaves turn magnificent shades of red, gold, and orange. It offers a little bit of extra color to a room.

The Japanese Maple bonsai tree is known for its delicate foliage and beautiful shades of gold, orange and red during autumn. It requires greater commitment to grow a bonsai tree than to plant any other plant.

Japanese Maple Bonsai performs well in a sunny and airy environment. It is best to grow this kind of bonsai outdoors but it should be protected from frost and it is advisable to let it stay in a light shade during hottest days to prevent damage to the leaves.

Scientific/Botanical Name

Acer palmatum

Description

The deciduous Japanese maple tree is indigenous to Japan. As the tree matures, the leaves undergo color changes. They start out with a green color, then they change to orange, and then end with a deep red color. The branches of the tree are flexible, making the tree well suited to bonsai training.

Position

Japanese maple trees grow best in USDA planting zones 5 and 6. The trees cannot tolerate direct sunlight in the summertime.

	Mature trees can tolerate short periods of freezing conditions, but they should be protected from severe frost.
Watering	The soil of the Japanese maple tree should be kept evenly-moist. More frequent watering is needed whilst the tree is actively growing. Water the tree daily from mid-spring to late-summer. Water as needed during the winter season to keep the soil from becoming dry.
Feeding	Feed the tree every two weeks during spring and summer. During the fall, feed the tree with a fertilizer that is nitrogen-free. Do not feed during wintertime.
Leaf and Branch Pruning	To reduce the size of leaves, prune the leaves during periods of active growth. This will also serve to intensify the colors of the leaves in the fall. Pinch- out new tree shoots on a regular basis to maintain the desired style, and to encourage optimal branching. The main branches are best pruned in the winter.
Re-potting & Growing Medium	Re-pot young trees once a year. Trees that are over 10 years old should be re-potted on a three-yearly schedule. Re-potting must be carried out in the springtime prior to the opening of the buds. Japanese akadama clay is the best soil in which to grow the tree.
Wiring	If it is necessary to wire the tree, this should be carried out in the summertime when the tree has all of its leaves. Wiring should not be left on for longer than six months, and raffia can be used to shield the bark.
Notes	Provide excellent air circulation to the plant so as to prevent powdery mildew.

General Care For Japanese Maple Bonsai

Just like all other bonsai trees available, Japanese Maple bonsai trees require constant moisture. However, it is important that the bonsai tree is not oversaturated as this can cause damage to the roots, including rot and decay.

Too much water can also cause the onset of mildew, which is a common occurrence with Japanese Maple bonsai trees that have been oversaturated. They also do not require a lot of sunlight, as compared to other variations of bonsai trees. It should be in an area so it can still get shade.

Lastly, it is important to fertilize the Japanese Maple bonsai tree. Apply the fertilizer from the end of the winter season until early into the spring season. It is not recommended to add fertilizer after the tree has been re-potted or at some point throughout the summer months.