WOODLAND MAPLE CARE

LIGHT

Striped, mountain, and vine maples suit a cool woodland edge with partial shade. Protect striped maple from full, hot sun and vine maple from hot, dry exposure. These are small trees or large shrubs with natural branching habits; allow room for a spreading or multi-stemmed form.

WATER

Water slowly through the root ball and surrounding soil after planting. Check moisture regularly and water deeply when needed, keeping the roots evenly moist during establishment. Adjust for rain, soil drainage, and weather instead of following a fixed daily schedule. Newly planted trees need attention before established trees show drought stress.

SOIL & PLANTING

Provide humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil. Mulch to conserve moisture while keeping stems and root flares clear. Avoid hot pavement, compacted ground, and repeated drying. Retain a sheltered woodland root environment without piling soil over roots or digging repeatedly among them. Consistent moisture is especially important for vine maple.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy trees may need no routine feeding. If nutrients are needed, apply a modest amount of tree fertilizer in spring at the label rate. Keep fertilizer off the trunk and avoid heavy nitrogen or late-season feeding that promotes tender growth.

SEASONAL CARE

Preserve the natural woodland habit rather than forcing every plant into a single formal trunk. Remove damaged or rubbing stems with small selective cuts. Avoid heavy pruning, especially on vine maple, where it spoils the graceful form. Do elective shaping after leaves expand and watch emerging foliage during late frosts.

HELPFUL TIPS

This group includes striped maple (Acer pensylvanicum), mountain maple (A. spicatum), and vine maple (A. circinatum), including Pacific Fire. Winter leaf loss is normal; striped or colorful young bark is ornamental. These are different from large sun-grown shade maples and should not be placed in a hot, dry street-tree site.