

Japanese Maple Care Guide

FarWest 
landscape + garden

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WHAT YOU NEED TO PLANT JAPANESE MAPLE

Plant in morning sun exposure (with sunlight until noon or 1pm) with **afternoon shade** from 1pm to dark **or** a dappled light location to avoid leaf scorch in Idaho's hot summer months. Well draining soil is key for Japanese Maple success in the Treasure Valley.



Soil Amendment- EB Stone compost (30% EBS to 70% native soil)

We amend our high alkaline clay soil so it is well draining and plant roots are not soggy.

Use Fertilome Root Stimulator or Espoma Biotone on the root ball. Be sure to plant trees a little higher, vs. too low. Once planted, place bark mulch on top of the soil for moisture retention of shallow roots.

Keep bark mulch 6-8" away from the trunk of your tree.

Fertilizing- Use slow release Espoma Plant-tone or Happy Frog Japanese Maple food twice the growing season. Apply in early spring (March) and again mid to late June.



Scan for planting
& watering tips

Watering- Deep water when planted and regular watering throughout the growing season.

A good deep watering in **late fall and early spring** is recommended in Idaho.

Pruning Japanese Maples:

You can prune in late February to mid March when the tree is bare and you can see crossing branches that need to be pruned or if your tree needs some thinning at that time. Light pruning in the summer is best for your Japanese Maple. **Avoid pruning November thru January** or sap will run out of your maple and it will suffer. Temperature fluxuations cause the sap to start moving and thus sap drip.

What is up with my Japanese maple?

Brown leaf edges or curling leaves

Leaf scorch (most likely): If the leaves turn brown around the edges and curl, especially during hot, sunny, or windy weather, the tree is likely losing water faster than its roots can replace it. This is especially common in our summer months with newly planted Japanese maples growing in too much sun or hot afternoon sun.

Japanese maples **need filtered light or shade after 1pm.**

Underwatering: Dry soil can cause the leaves to brown and curl. Japanese maples prefer consistently moist (but not soggy) soil, so provide regular watering.



Yellowing foliage and leaf drop

Yellowing leaves and dropping leaves can occur with overwatering. Allow your maple to dry out a little between deep waterings. Tree roots are not happy if they stay wet or soggy, so allowing the roots to breathe (have more oxygen) between waterings is most helpful to keep your tree healthy.



Chlorosis -yellow or fading leaves with dark green veins

Chlorosis appears as yellow leaf tissue with dark green veins. Alkaline soil or too much water can keep a plant from absorbing iron, causing chlorosis. We add sulfur to our planted Japanese maple trees to help prevent this issue and allow better iron absorption. You can also treat your tree with EDDHA chelated Iron. We stock the granule and liquid forms of this product at FarWest. Early treatment restores leaves back to normal color. If treatment is done later, it will take time for leave to normalize.

