

# MANAGER'S SPECIAL



**COW POOPOO OR  
TOP SOIL 5/\$10.00**

# JULY THINGS TO DO:

1. Plant crape myrtles now, to choose exactly the shade you want.
2. Plant warm season grasses, by sod or hydromulching. Water lightly at least twice a day to keep soil surface from drying before grass can root deeply.
3. Finish planting fall tomatoes and pumpkins early in the month. Plant peppers mid-month.
4. Plant fall annual color including zinnias, cosmos, marigolds, celosia, copper plants, firebush, Joseph's Coat.
5. Install a water garden in a sunny location in your landscape.
6. Prune summer flowering perennials, to remove old flowers and seed heads.
7. Prune roses slightly, crape myrtles and shape new growth of shrubs and vines.
8. Remove lower limbs of trees that are casting excessive shade or that have become hazardous.
9. Pinch out growing tips of mums one more time before allowing plants to set buds late in the summer.
10. Fertilize turf every 8 to 12 weeks, with quality slow release 3-1-2 ratio plant food.
11. Fertilize annual flower beds with the same 3-1-2 ratio plant food. Fertilize once per month. Water immediately after applying.
12. Fertilize roses monthly with specialty rose food.
13. Fertilize iron-deficient plants with iron/sulfur additive.
14. Fertilize container plants with complete and balanced water-soluble material with each watering.
15. Check mower blades for sharpness.
16. Purchase a hammock and enjoy the stars and cool night air.
17. DO NOT WORK BAREFOOT WITHOUT GLOVES because your fingernails may turn brown and toes yellow!



## **A Vine by Any Other Name.....**

Plant honeysuckle and you won't be the only one to succumb to its elegant blooms and delicious scent. Hummingbirds and butterflies are real suckers for the stuff too. They can't overlook the plant's delectable nectar any more than a bear can resist a hive full of honey.

No one vine that I know of has sweeter or more abundant nectar. I can remember many a hot afternoon in my childhood that I sat under the cool tent created by the huge honeysuckle vine in the back of our yard area picking off the blooms and pulling the sweet "honey" out of the bloom for a sweet treat.

Honeysuckle consists of about 180 species of deciduous and evergreen shrubs and climbing vines. They are easy to grow and best known for their distinct flowers and luscious fragrance. The various species share many common traits, such as funnel-shaped flowers and quick growth, but there are enough differences between varieties to satisfy just about any gardening taste or need.

Whether in shrub or vine form, honeysuckle plants unfurl an attractive mass of tubular blooms, usually during spring and summer. The flowers are arranged in loose clusters in an extensive range of colors, from creamy white to bright yellow and delicate pink to racy scarlet.

Many varieties even have flowers that change colors throughout their blooming period. They may start out red and fade to yellow, for example. Others have multicolored blooms, blending together like rainbow sherbet.

Honeysuckle vines can sometimes be grown in shrub form, but the twining vines of climbers dress up any wall, fence, or mailbox. Make sure new additions to your landscaping receive an inch of water each week.

They will grow in full sun or partial shade, in well-drained soil, with little fuss. Mature plants can be pruned, severely if necessary, in early spring before new growth begins or tight after they finish blooming (which they will do until fall).



Once these plants established, they will produce lush foliage and flowers with little or no effort. That leaves plenty of time to enjoy the many winged wonders this sweet scentsation will attract to your backyard.



## Hands and Gloves

You know, there's something satisfying about working in the garden with bare hands. You can carefully untangle each root you plant and feel the grain of the wood on your trowel's handle as you dig. For some jobs, such as transplanting seedlings, gloves can be downright clumsy. But there are times when they come in handy, not to mention *healthy*.

How many times have you thought, "I'll just snip this one unruly rose cane," only to find yourself twenty minutes later up to your elbows in canes- and ultimately covered in scratches? If only you'd taken the time to find your gloves.

And say your hands already have nicks and scratches. The soil is filled with bacteria, good and bad. Most of the time it doesn't affect you. But if you have an open sore on your hand, exposure to some bacteria could lead to infection, keep an eye on scratches and cover them with a bandage before you work in the garden, even with gloves.

If you're working with chemicals, it's also a good idea to protect your skin- but with something more than your usual garden gloves. You just don't know what you may be exposing yourself to- burns, rashes or maybe worse in the long run.

Now that you know when and why to protect yourself, how do you choose your gloves/ To get maximum protection and a snug fit leather gloves are usually the best bet.

Cotton is also good for protecting your hands. It gets wetter faster than leather and doesn't offer quite the resistance against snags that leather does. But it's inexpensive, cooler and the gloves are easier to get on and off.

When you're working with chemicals, leather and cotton can soak up liquid and powdered chemicals. So, a pair of disposable rubber gloves is a must. This way you get rid of them as soon as you've finished spraying and minimize your exposure.

Always wash your hands after working in the garden, even if they don't look dirty. One other by-product of working with soil is that you end up with dry hands. Why? Well, the soil is like a sponge: It craves moisture and will take it wherever it finds it, even if it's from your skin. And all that washing up only makes it worse. So, once you've washed, make sure to use a good lotion right away. When your skin is still damp, it absorbs the lotion better. Work it into your cuticles and knuckles as these are the areas that bear the brunt of the damage.

Once you find the gloves you like at Mike's Garden Center, buy a couple of pairs so you can keep them handy all the time. You never know when you might need them. Have a pair in the car, a pair in your pocket, and a pair in the shed-you know how it is!

## HELPFUL HINTS

1. Plants will sometimes wilt in the heat to conserve water. Before rushing to water them check the soil with your finger. If it's still damp one inch down, don't water-your plant will perk back up with the sun goes down.
2. Punch several holes with a 16-penny nail in the bottom of a clean milk jug and set beside tomato and pepper plants. Fill with water and let the jug slowly water your plants with no run off or waste of water.
3. Use ladybugs to eat aphids off house plants. When they are done eating, just move them outside where they can continue to eat those bad bugs.
4. Make a weed-free path by laying several layers of newspapers down and then covering with thick layer of gravel or wood chips. You can wet the newspaper to keep in place while you get it covered.
5. When container planting, use empty plastic soda bottles with the lids to take up space at the bottom of the container so you don't have to waste potting soil. Don't use when planting shrubs or ornamental trees in containers as they need all the soil for deeper roots.
6. To take the sting out of a bee, wasp, and fire ant stings and bites dab a little bleach on a damp paper towel and apply directly to bite. If done quickly enough to relief is instant and fire ant bites don't get that painful, itchy blister on top of them.

## TIDBITS

**Want to save on medical bills?** Get digging! According to a national survey of American Medicare beneficiaries conducted by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the average monthly healthcare expenditures of regular healthy gardeners were 17.20 percent lower than those of non-gardeners over the 12-month period studied. So, forget about eating an apple a day: try planting an orchard instead!

**Weeds aren't all bad.** Many of them produce seeds birds readily eat. Unless you like the sight of them in your garden, they overpower your plants, or they show up on the noxious weed list, leave weeds for the birds. Besides, it gives you more time to sit back and enjoy the birds!

**Love lavender?** Tired of trying to fight with English lavender to keep it alive in hot weather? Try Spanish lavender from seed. The silver/gray plants are drought tolerant and will be topped with bright purple flower bracts and flowers, Fine, fragrant annual with lots of potpourri potential!

**The simple rule for pruning hydrangeas is:** Don't! Most hydrangeas grow well with no pruning at all, and basically you should cut only enough stem to use the flowers in arrangements. Flowers come from buds along stems that developed the previous summer and when they are pruned back, you are cutting the new crop of flowers off before the bud and bloom.

**Fertilize containers of flowers** with a slow release granular fertilizer such as Osmocote, that will feed for about four months. However. If flower production starts to decline, begin supplemental feedings weekly of very diluted liquid fertilizer until the end of blooming season.

Fasten chicken wire to a horizontal wooden or metal frame positioned a foot above the soil to make a foot above the soil to make an elevated, **table like trellis for vining crops.** Plant seeds in in compost enriched hills under the rack, and mulch heavily both under and around the rack.

As the vines develop, train them up through the wire onto the flat area. The leaves will soon shade the roots, and the plants will need less watering.

Suspended in the air, vines and vegetables/fruits are less susceptible to downy and powdery mildews and to soilborne insects and diseases. Any insects that so appear are easy to spot and control.

**Dandelions** can be aphids by attracting-eating lady bugs, according to a new study by the University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers. Planting wildflower seed mixes attracts host of pest-eating beneficial insects, studies at the University of Georgia have found.

# JAPANESE MAPLES

## \* BLOODGOOD\* 1G





A fresh, richly-hued focal point of any landscape, the Bloodgood Japanese Maple Tree is known for standing out with amazing color. Landscape designers love to use its vibrant silhouette because it pops well against green grass, flower beds and more.

But what sets our Japanese Maple apart from the rest? For starters, its foliage stays scarlet for most of the year, rather than just a few weeks like many other varieties.

And its small tree that you can plant near your home, patio or tight places. Trim the Bloodgood Japanese Maple to your desired height or let it grow to its full 15 feet. The roots are well-behaved; Japanese Maples are perfect for accenting corners or crevices near foundation walls. They also work great for small yards, entryways, accents or as property dividers.

Best of all, Bloodgood's are versatile and will grow in partial shade or full sun. So, you don't have to worry about tall shade trees nearby or shade from close structures.

## **\*Tamukeyama\* 1G**



Incredible red foliage, cold hardy strength and a silhouette that holds its color well throughout the season - the Tamukeyama is second to none.

It's the Japanese Maple that stands the test of time. Dating back more than three hundred years, the Tamukeyama Japanese Maple has long perfected its tradition of spectacular beauty. A wonderful specimen, it's easy to grow in a variety of soil conditions in either full sun or part shade. And the relatively compact mature size of 8 feet makes the Tamukeyama a versatile tree suitable for a number of planting options. Growing wider than it does tall, the branches swoop down to form a dome filled with colorful foliage on display all four seasons.

So, a sea of beauty awaits your landscape. Winning on all three counts, the well-defined leaves of the Tamukeyama are exceptional for their shape, texture and especially their color. The purplish-red foliage that emerges in the spring is accented by tiny crimson flowers that will draw admirers in for a closer look.

Summer won't dampen the brilliant color that will last the length of the season. As autumn beckons, the leaves red hues deepen, illuminating the planting area with incredible fall color.

## **\*Crimson Queen\* 1G**



'Crimson Queen' is by far one of the most popular of the family of Japanese Maples. Lace-leaf and weeping with deep red color that holds well throughout the summer even in conditions of extreme heat, 'Crimson Queen' is a great addition to any landscape. This beautiful dwarf tree does well in zones 5 through 8. Although partial shade is often recommended for this tree, mine are in full sun and do quite well.

Spring color is very, very red and as the summer goes on the color deepens to more of a scarlet red. The fall color, right before leaf drop is striking red. The photo to the left was taken in August after weeks of extreme heat and the tree still has good red color.

New growth comes out with a beautiful red color so early in the spring the tree is very eye catching with its vivid red color.

## **\*GARNET\* 1G**





The outstanding features of this cultivar are its shape, color, and vigor. The leaf color is a rich red-orange color similar to the gemstone, 'Garnet'. In the shade this cultivar stays green but in a sunny location the red-orange color quickly comes out and stays well into the summer. 'Garnet' is a vigorous grower, eventually reaching 8-10 ft. in height and width. The leaves are large for a dissectum. It has the pendulous spreading habit of dissectums. As 'Garnet' matures it forms a beautiful, cascading, "mound shaped" specimen. 'Garnet' is becoming a popular landscape plant because of its durability and color retention qualities.

## **\*Orido Nishiki\* 7G**



Breath taking. This is an upright variety and considered one of the best variegated upright varieties and I have to agree. Being among the upright varieties of Japanese maples it has the ability to reach 15' to 20' high, but if that doesn't work for you, you can easily keep it trimmed to a lower height. Keep in mind, the more you trim trees like this when they are small the more densely they

branch and the more foliage you see. With Orido Nishiki that's a huge benefit because the foliage is spectacular. The new growth emerges with an array of colors!

Many Japanese maples change colors as the season progress, but this tree comes out of the gate with a multitude of colors ranging from pink, green, red, cream and almost pure white. As the season goes on and more new growth appears the fireworks continue to explode.

## **\* Inaba Shidare\* 1G**



Among all the Japanese Maples, Inaba-shidare is one of the best and most visually stunning. Compact enough for any garden, it is and covered with gorgeous red, lacy leaves that cascade down from its upright-growing trunk. New foliage comes in the spring as a deep reddish-purple that can appear almost black. Throughout spring and summer, the leaves undergo changes into a much more vivid red color, and finally in autumn burst into a bright fiery crimson. Inaba-shidare is a vigorously growing shrub that can reach its full height and width within ten to 15 years. This fast rate of growth will help it establish itself in your landscape design much faster than many similar varieties, and it will then bring you years of absolute visual delight. Growing to roughly ten feet tall with a crown of 15 feet in diameter at maturity, the Inaba Shidare Japanese Maple is a perfect choice for gardens that have a large space that needs to be filled. The leaves of the Inaba Shidare are of the red lace type; instead of being solid palmate shaped leaves they have seven to nine points that are separated at the base and appear almost lace-like or feathery. Unlike other Japanese Maples, whose new foliage appears in the spring as a light green color, it produces deep red, almost purple foliage that turns into a deep red over the summer and then to a final brighter shade in the fall.



## **\*Viridis\* 1G**



Perfect Green Plant with Fall Interest. Light Weeping Foliage

The Weeping Japanese Maple has unique wispy green foliage. It's airy and light and tends to have a glowing effect when the sun shines upon it. Varying shades of green flow elegantly with each breeze. Referred to as Viridis, it can reach 8 feet tall at maturity and has a spread of nearly 10 feet. As a slow grower, it's easy to maintain the height and shape that you prefer. Expect this plant to flourish for 60 years or more with very minimal care.

Spectacular Summer and Fall Color. As fall approaches, the bright green foliage transforms into a series of colors. First, the leaves turn a bright golden yellow color, then orange. Mid-season, you'll experience darker reddish hues for an impressive autumn encore.

Versatile Beauty. The Weeping Japanese Maple fits nicely into tight spaces where other trees might be too large. It's a great choice to plant as an understudy amongst tall trees in your garden. Many growers like to pair it with Red Japanese Maples because of the rich contrast of color. Its low mound of cascading leaves atop elegant draping branches creates graceful arches and brings depth and elegance to any setting. It makes an outstanding accent tree, particularly when lit up at night or situated next to a pond or water fountain.

## **\*Tamukeyama\* 7G**





'Tamukeyama' is one of the older Japanese maple cultivars with records dating back to the year 1710. This beautiful tree has outstanding foliage color throughout the seasons. Tamukeyama's new foliage is a deep crimson-red when unfolding but soon turns to a dark-purple red. It is an excellent shade of dark red that holds until late summer. Its fall color is a bright scarlet. Experts claim that in the state of Oregon 'Tamukeyama' holds its deep color better than any other cultivar. Growers throughout the United States say that this cultivar does well in both heat and humidity. This hardy plant has a strong cascading form. Tamukeyama reaches 5 to 7 feet in height in ten years. This cultivar is considered by many to be the best, and the connoisseur's choice in red dissectums.

**\*Shishigashira\* 7G**



'Shishigashira' is unlike any other Japanese maple in the world. This slow growing maple has somewhat glossy leaves that are curled and/or kinked up. One of its outstanding features is its compact arrangement of leaves the leaves are a deep green that lasts into the fall. The leaves are of a heavy substance that is firm to the touch. 'Shishigashira' holds its leaf color very well even in the hot sun. In the fall this tree is a striking combination of gold suffused with rose and crimson tones. After most other maples begin to lose their color, 'Shishigashira' bursts into its glamorous color. 'Shishigashira' is also unique in that it can grow up to 15 feet tall, yet it is one of the best bonsai trees in the world. This unique cultivar always attracts attention. It has been in cultivation



and published in Japanese literature books since the 1880's. The name 'Shishigashira' means "Lion's Head" or "Lion's Mane."

## **\*Emperor One\* 7G**



The reigning monarch of Japanese maples! Japanese Maples are easily one of the most beautiful trees that you can buy to enhance your landscape and Emperor One is the cream of the crop!

This exceptionally ornamental tree has gorgeous color that ranges throughout the year from rich plum purple to brilliant crimson red. 'Red Emperor' as it is sometimes called, is later to leaf out in the spring than other species of Japanese Maples. This means that it isn't as susceptible to surprise spring frost damage as others.

One of the great qualities of Emperor One is its beautiful leaves. They are exquisitely shaped and colored, but what makes them stand out is their almost translucent quality.

The Emperor One Japanese Maple is a strong grower to 15 feet tall and wide but can be pruned to any size. It will also thrive in a big container which will keep it naturally small. (If you want to keep it really small, you can prune it as an Emperor One Japanese Maple bonsai!)

Emperor One Japanese Maple holds its color in the shade, so put it by the front door or use it as a foundation planting. Uplight it for a truly striking garden statement. Your yard will look like you paid a king's ransom for it (but we'll keep your secret!).

\* Landscaper's favorite \* Holds color in the shade \* Translucent leaves with outstanding color \* Three seasons of color.





## **\*Orange Flame\* 15G**

The Orange Flame Japanese maple is an upright, strong grower, with a deeply lobed leaf. In Spring new leaves emerge orange and then turn a pleasing light green in the summer. In summer the new second growth lights up like a flame - hence the name Orange Flame. Added bonus is that the winter bark color is also orange on newer growth! Orange Flame has great fall color which is bright red, along with oranges and yellows. Hardy.

## **\* Beni Shien\* 15G**



A compact, vase-shaped deciduous tree with brown-red leaves that are rather small with narrow lobes. By late summer new shoots provide a "smokey" appearance in contrast to bronze-green older growth which can also be variegated with creamy-white edges. Fall color is bright gold to orange. Prefers full sun in well-drained soil. 8' tall x 4' wide in 10 years.

## **\* O isami\* 15G**



'O-isami' is an upright, large-leaved cultivar with an open rounded crown. It typically grows to 10' tall and 6' wide over the first 10 years, eventually maturing over time to 25-30' tall. Orbicular leaves (to 6" long and 7" wide) have 9-11 ovate-



lanceolate lobes. Leaves emerge light green in spring, mature to a rich green by summer and finally turn bright shades of yellow, orange and red in fall. Each leaf measures about 4-5" across.

## **\*Karasugawa\* 30G**



This maple is one of the most spectacular of the variegated Japanese maples. New leaves are bright pink; as they age the pink may become white, pink tinted and later still, becomes green with large white to pinkish streaks. In fall, the variegated portions become rose-red while the green turns dark greenish-purple. Unfortunately, this selection is one of the most tender; zone 7a is the recommended cut-off. Protect from hot afternoon sun which can scorch the leaves. Overall, it is a finicky selection, but well worth the effort. It can reach to 4 m.

## **\*Garnet\* 45G**





The outstanding features of this cultivar are its shape, color, and vigor. The leaf color is a rich red-orange color similar to the gemstone, 'Garnet'. In the shade this cultivar stays green but in a sunny location the red-orange color quickly comes out and stays well into the summer. 'Garnet' is a vigorous grower, eventually reaching 8-10 ft. in height and width. The leaves are large for a dissectum. It has the pendulous spreading habit of dissectums. As 'Garnet' matures it forms a beautiful, cascading, "mound shaped" specimen. 'Garnet' is becoming a popular landscape plant because of its durability and color retention qualities. Moderately deer resistant. Deciduous.

**\*SANGO KAKU\* 45G**



'Sango Kaku's' bright coral colored bark is one of many outstanding features of this maple. Its Japanese name means "Coral Tower". At times the bark color becomes almost fluorescent. This highly sought-after cultivar is always in high demand because of its striking and unique coloration. The colors seem to brighten in the fall and intensify even more as when winter approaches. The leaf color is a striking light green which looks even brighter set upon the beautiful coral colored bark. The leaves have a strong reddish tinge which tends to fade out as the leaves mature. As summer approaches the thin-textured leaves turn an even lighter shade of green. The leaves turn a yellow-golden color in the fall. 'Sango Kaku' is quite "showy" almost every fall. This upright-growing tree gradually spreads at the top as it ages. 'Sango Kaku' grows rapidly for the first few years then takes on a branching out and thickening habit of growth. When 'Sango Kaku' is planted near contrasting colors it makes a striking color combination for winter accent. Recommended by the United States Arboretum.

**\* Inaba Shidare\* 45G**





One of the quickest and easiest ways to raise the curb appeal (and the value) of your home is to add beautiful and interesting new landscaping. Inaba Shidare Japanese Maple Tree (Acer pd. 'Inaba Shidare') is definitely beautiful and interesting.

This stunner is an exceptional ornamental tree, both in color and form. This is a weeping lace leaf maple, which means it has delicate-looking leaves on gracefully cascading branches. Don't let the airy disposition of Inaba Shidare fool you, though. This is a strong grower. It grows upright and straight, even though its branches droop appealingly.

It explodes in the spring with leaves that are such a deep scarlet they almost appear black. After that they only get more brilliant through the year. When fall finally comes, the cold weather makes the leaves a bright fiery red rivalling all other fall foliage.

The Inaba Shidare Japanese Maple growth rate is outstanding. They will grow fast – 1-2 feet a year for the first few years. The tree will double in size in 5 years! Inaba Shidare Japanese Maples can grow 15 feet tall and wide.

## **\*ORANGE FLAME\* 2G**



The Orange Flame Japanese maple is an upright, strong grower, with a deeply lobed leaf. In Spring new leaves emerge orange and then turn a pleasing light green in the summer. In summer the new second growth lights up like a flame - hence the name Orange Flame. Added bonus is that the winter bark color is also orange on newer growth! Orange Flame has great fall color which is bright red, along with oranges and yellows. Hardy. Grows 12' x 8' in ten years.

## **\*EMERALD LACE\* 2G**



'Emerald Lace' has an extremely finely dissected leaf that makes it stand out among weeping lace leaf types. The overall habit is mounding and spreading,



often making this tree have a unique shape that gets wider than tall. We expect 'Emerald Lace' to get 3-4 ft in height by 6-8ft in width in 15 years. Fall color on 'Emerald Lace' is a bright red to deep maroon. 'Emerald Lace' is extremely heat tolerant, cold tolerant, and a good vigorous grower.

## **\*PEACHES & CREAM\* 2G**



*Acer palmatum* 'Peaches and Cream' emerges in the spring with one of the more brilliantly unique color patterns found in the acer world. This amazing leaf on this Japanese maple is highlighted by bright green veins that make sharp contrast to the elegant shades of pink-to-rose over a cream background.

'Peaches and Cream' is a small upright Japanese maple that may reach 10 feet in height. Evening shade is recommended with this cultivar to achieve best coloration. The multi-colored reticulated leaves make a stunning addition to any garden and are bound to catch the eye!

