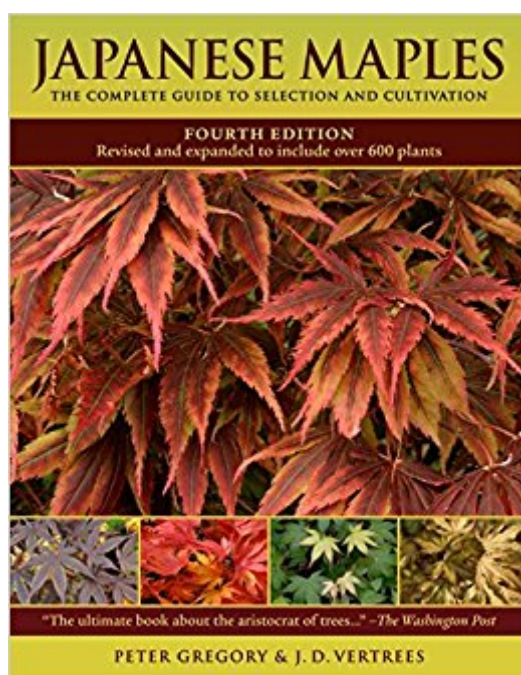


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# Japanese Maples: The Complete Guide To Selection And Cultivation, Fourth Edition



## Synopsis

Among the first titles published in 1978, with more than 150,000 copies in print in three editions, Japanese Maples is a Timber Press classic. Japanese maples are unlike any other tree. They boast a remarkable diversity of color, form, and texture. As a result of hundreds of years of careful breeding, they take the center stage in any garden they are found. In the last decade, the number of Japanese maple cultivars available to gardeners has doubled and there is a pressing need for an up-to-date reference. This new fourth edition offers detailed descriptions of over 150 new introductions, updates to plant nomenclature, and new insights into established favorites. Gardeners will relish the practical advice that puts successful cultivation within everyone's grasp. Accurate identification is made simple with over 600 easy-to-follow descriptions and 500 color photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Whether you are already a Japanese maple aficionado or looking to dip your toe into this colorful diverse world Japanese Maples is far and away the best-written and most comprehensive guide.”  
“American Gardener”  
“The comprehensive information on the growing of Japanese maples is extremely valuable and well done. . . . Their care, preservation, and propagation are fully and expertly documented herein.”  
“American Reference Books Annual

Peter Gregory, retired manager at Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire, England, is the chairman and co-founder of the Maple Society and the editor of its journal. He has been involved

with tree research, including maples, for more than five decades. He lives in the UK. J. D. Vertrees (1915--1993) was an entomologist, nurseryman, and educator who collected rare and unusual maples in southern Oregon. He was probably the most knowledgeable grower of Japanese maples in his time, amassing an impressive list of awards. His 1.5-acre arboretum at Maplewood Nursery had the largest collection of Japanese maples in the United States. In 1997, Japanese Maples was selected by the American Horticultural Society as one of the 75 Great American Garden Books.

This book just keeps getting thicker and thicker with each release! Now it's a hefty textbook size. The quality of the paper and colors in the book is quite good. As far as the information contained within, it's in the same vein as the previous versions. I have the 2nd version only, so compared to that, it's similar, if not better organized. The authors have expanded on the first few chapters of the book, regarding the history, and care of maples, but it's basically just added information to the previous text (a lot of it is verbatim from the earlier edition). I like how the cultivars are now organized simply by name. I'm not sure if this was something done in the 3rd ed, but in the 2nd, the cultivars were broken down into leaf shape, and then alphabetical. This was more difficult for me, and really served no purpose (in my opinion). The layout now makes more sense. The information for each cultivar is similar to previous editions. A couple of paragraphs with factual information regarding leaf type, shape, sun/shade requirements, etc. And of course, it includes a lot more than previous editions, as new cultivars are introduced. The book does have a few drawbacks though. My biggest gripe is with some of the photos. Though most are beautiful and accurate glossy photos, some are way overly photoshopped. Many people will make their maple selections based on what they think the leaves will look like, and some of the photos are so over the top, the reader will surely be disappointed when they see their maple in reality does not show the brilliant coloration as in the photo. One example is the photo of Ap Crimson Queen. You will clearly see the color "dial" in photoshop was turned to maximum, as the colors just simply look too saturated. There are plenty of other photos in the book which do not reflect the true nature of the plant illustrated. Comparing to my own collection, it is clear some of the book's photos have been tweaked to bring out aspects of the leaf which may not normally be so striking. Another nit-picky problem I have is with some of the name changes. Though perhaps scientifically and technically correct, changing some of the names around just makes it confusing. I have known "Ap Aka Shigitatsusawa" to be Aka Shigitatsusawa for a long time, and that is the way most nurseries (online and physical) call it. But the author made a specific point to rename this selection Ap Beni Shigitatsusawa. It may be technically correct, but

trying to find the former in the book leads to a dead end. There are other examples of this, and it's nit-picky I know...but perhaps they could have better led the reader to the new, corrected entry. Overall, this is a nice, high quality book with good information. Though some of the photos could be more realistic, most are fine and only add to the information. It's one of the best quick reference books and makes a nice coffee table book. If you are a Japanese maple enthusiast, you'll find this book to be very good and full of good information.

This is a beautiful book with many colorful pictures! However, it is more of an encyclopedia of the varieties of Japanese maples than a "complete guide". I wish there was more information about care of the Japanese maple. The information given was very basic. I would have wanted information on using them as bonsai or training the maples for shape etc etc.. Only about 1/4 of the book is actual care information. The rest is a summary of each variety; WHICH is great! but I wasn't expecting that. Another down side is that although they have information about each variety, they are organized alphabetically. For gardeners, this is not helpful because we need them to organized by type. For example, if I were looking for a weeping type, I would have to go through the whole book. No section on groupings.

Great book with excellent images and descriptions. I've used all three editions and this edition is the only book I know that covers most of the cultivars generally available. This book will be of interest to both beginners and experts and provides a common reference for discussing the various attributes of the trees listed. Just trying to keep current with the explosion of new crosses being introduced has to be a monumental task and I thank Mr. Gregory for continuing Mr. Vertrees initial work and for this excellent updated guide. You will not be disappointed in your purchase if you have any interest in Japanese Maples.

It's very nice of Peter Gregory to continue to give J.D. Vertrees so much credit. This book is the bible of Japanese Maple enthusiasts and collectors all over the world. This edition is much more comprehensive than the 3rd edition and the quality of photos is excellent. However, I was disappointed that many of the stable and worthy North American cultivars aren't mentioned and hope they will be included in subsequent editions. Still, this fourth edition is a terrific resource.

Disappointed. A great history book and listing of every imaginable type of cultivar. But very little on cultivation. Most references to cultivation are very basic, without pictures, and refer one to another

book for better instructions. I already knew what I could learn from this book about cultivation and I am new at this! A thorough book, so I won't bash it. But it is not what a newly interested grower is interested in.

Great resource for JM lovers.. but keep in mind these are Oregon observations sizes, colors,hardiness. and Oregon is very much like Japan.. and most of you do not live in either place . so take his writings with a grain of salt and don't expect same results.But this is a treasure trove of information.

I got this book for my mother before picking a Japanese Maple for the front yard. It is full of information about all different kinds of Japanese Maples. I never knew how many varieties there are. It gives details regarding the preferred climate and soil for the trees which made it much easier to select one for the yard as well as the right place in the yard so it gets the right amount of sun and shade. Now that we are done picking the tree, this book is a pretty addition as a coffee table book. It has lots of great photos as well as the descriptions.

All 3 books were everything I was hoping for. Got LOTS of great information from all of them. Hopefully some of the info I gathered from the deer books will help keep my yard from becoming a salad bar for them. Good info on what I can plant that they will hopefully stay away from. The Japanese Maple book was recommended by Coach Pat Dye when we were up in Auburn, AL at Quail Hollow Gardens (which he runs). This is my first time working with Japanese maples and the book is a really great guide.

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