

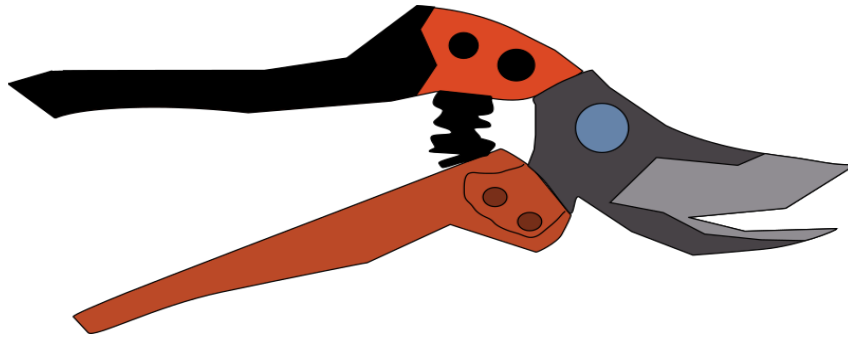


AUGUST

THINGS TO DO LIST:

1. Lightly prune roses to promote abundant fall color.
2. Be sure to keep a thick layer of mulch over beds and the soil around trees to conserve moisture.
3. Plant lycoris (spider lilies)
4. And bearded Iris
5. Prepare new beds for fall planting by removing grass and weeds and adding compost.
6. If you need professional help, now is a good time to develop a design for future plantings.
7. Don't fertilize shrubs this month, or next. Wait until after leaf drop. Encouraging growth now sets plants up for stress when temperatures drop in the fall.
8. Get any summer shaping on fruit trees and blooming shrubs done in the middle of the month but hold off on significant pruning until temperatures have cooled down in the fall.
9. Weed, tip-prune, pinch and deadhead flowers as usual.
10. Water if you don't get enough rain. Seeds need constant moisture, seedlings need regular gentle watering, and the vegetable patch needs an inch a week. Any shrubs and trees set out this past year need water during dry periods.

- 11.If you have worm compost container, make sure your worm herd stays cool and moist during the hot days of summer. Add some moistened high carbon bedding) chopped dry leaves and/or torn newspaper) whenever you add kitchen scraps, especially after a melon binge when you've got lots of rinds
- 12.Late August is a good time to prepare areas for reseeding your lawn.
- 13.Deadhead, deadhead, deadhead. Make bouquets for the house while blooms still look good.



10 MUST HAVE TOOLS

If you are starting out or stocking up, you'll want these essentials:

- Round-point shovel
- Spading fork
- Basic long-handled hoe
- 3-prong cultivator
- Hand pruners
- Loppers
- Standard hand towel
- Garden rake
- Flower shears
- Watering can

Mike's carries all the tools you will need for gardening! Stop by and visit with us!

AUGUST CHECKLIST

1. Clean out your annual beds and start planting fall color. Be sure that the transplants that you plant are not in bud yet.
2. Check the mulch around your plans, add if needed.
3. Keep the roots of plants moist, not wet. Try to do your watering early in the morning. This helps save water.

4. Keep your birdbaths and feeder full. Hot weather is just as hot on our feathered friends as it is on us. Also, provide shade and plenty of fresh water for your pets.
5. Start planting your fall vegetable garden. It is safe to transplant in August.
6. Remove spent flower heads from your flowering plants, prune lightly, just to tidy them up.
7. Late August is a good time to prepare areas for reseeding with tall fescue in September and October.
8. Keep mowing regularly, set the mower at 3 ½ for tall fescue. Warm season grasses, like Bermuda grass, can take a lower setting.
9. Don't fertilize fescue. You can give a last application of fertilizer to Bermuda grass this month.
10. Get any summer shaping pm fruit trees and summer-blooming shrubs done before the middle of this month but hold off on significant pruning until temperatures drop in the fall.
11. Steak up tall plants that might blow over during a storm (like Tithonia, sunflowers, and peppers). Use thin bamboo stick work very well but anything stiff will do.
12. Plant bulbs for Spider lily (Lycoris) and Autumn crocus (Colchicum) and sow seed for Stokesia, hollyhocks, and other perennials.



PENTAS DOES IT ALL

Easy to grow and a favorite of hummingbirds and butterflies, this flower blooms nonstop in colors of red, pink, lavender and white.

Are you a shameless creature of habit? Have you been sitting out marigolds and scarlet sage ever since the Beatles disbanded? Then it's time you tried something new. And I have just the thing. It's a flower called Pentas that simply does everything well.

It blooms nonstop in warm weather. It attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Its cut flowers last a long time in water. Its cut stems root easily in soil or just in plain water.

The point is, that this is one terrific plant. Native to Tropical Africa, pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*) grows 2 to 3 feet tall and wide. Flat clusters of red, pink, lavender, or white starlike flowers appear atop dark green, deeply veined leaves. Perennial in the Coastal and Tropical South, It's an annual elsewhere. Of course, if you're a real cheapo like me, you can pot it up and take it indoors to a sunny window for the winter.

Although some folks prefer to mix the colors, mass plantings makes an excellent container plant too. Periodically removing spent flowers and shortening stems keeps this champion performer bushy and floriferous.

Mike's carries a good selection of pentas. Come in and enjoy and take some home for your garden.



Adding Herbs to Flower Beds & Borders

Herbs are a refreshing alternative to common annual bedding plants. Many of the perennial, annual, and biennial herbs have a softer, subtler flower effect than the showy flowery annuals and perennials typically used in border plantings.

Other herbs do. However, offer a showy splash of color when in bloom. For example, bee balm's vivid red, pink, or magenta blooms are attention grabbers in any flower bed. Balloon flower displays beautiful periwinkle blue, pink, or white bell-shaped flowers. Creeping thymes off a colorful carpet of red, pink, and white. Foxglove creates a colorful stately sculptural presence in the flower garden. The bright daisy-like blossoms of calendula, pyrethrum, and purple coneflower are flower garden favorites, as are the new hybrid yarrows. The sages or salvias produce countless spikes of flowers in exquisite shades of blue, purple, red, pink, white, and bicolor.

If you like rose, pink, lilac, blue, or white flowers, try combining them with herbs that have purple, blue-gray, or silvery foliage. Opal basil, purple perilla, and purple sage have rich dark purple leaves. Bronze has elegant, feathery, purple-bronze foliage. Several artemisias, gray santolina. Wooly thyme, curry plant, lavender, and garden sage all have gray silvery foliage. Use a low edging of parsley, lams-ears, thyme or dianthis to unify and complete the design.

PERENNIIAL HERBS WITH ATTRACTIVE FLOWER

Yarrows	Agastachs	Catnip
Chives	Lavenders	
Garlic Chives	Bee Balms	
Chamomile	Passion Flower	
Butterfly Weed	Balloon Flower	
Sage	Purple Cone Flower	
Winter Savory	Germanders	
Thymes	Society Garlic	
Hyssop	Yucca	



HELPFUL HINTS

1. A plastic colander that is never used can become an indispensable tool in your garden, its perforated bottom makes it an ideal spreader when needing to sow grass seed over

bare spots in your lawn. It can also be used to sift dirt when needing fine soil for potting plants or backfilling small planting holes. Because it's plastic, the colander never rusts.

2. When digging and planting a new garden, think ahead remembering that come fall, you will probably want to plant all kinds of bulbs among your perennials. While the perennials are still small, dig future holes for your bulbs, as you dig, fill large-sized nursery pots with soil from the holes, as you dig, fill large-sized nursery pots with soil from the holes. Drop the full pots into the holes to hold space for your bulbs, then cover the sunken pots of soil with mulch. In the fall, lift the pots, place the bulbs in the bottom of the holes and empty the soil from the pots back into the holes to cover the bulbs.



JAPANESE MAPLES

NATURAL HABITAT AND PREFERRED SITE:

Japanese maple is a native to Japan and China but adapts well to typical garden soils in Texas. It needs moisture and good drainage. Most of these trees prefer filtered light or morning sun with afternoon shade. The green acer palmatum tends to be able to stand the most direct sun.

IDENTIFICATION:

Japanese maples vary tremendously in size, appearance, leaf texture, and color. They range from dwarf, lacy-leaved varieties to very tall, wide-leaved

varieties and cultivars. Fall color can change from yellows and gold to deep reds and maroons.

FLOWERS AND FRUIT:

The flowers of most maples are insignificant, and the bloom effect come from the unfolding of the colorful new foliage growth in the spring. The fruit is a typical maple samara (winged seed) appearing in the late summer and fall.

BARK:

The bark ranges tremendously from green through various shades of gray and brown. On the *Acer palmatum*, “Coralbark’, the bark is even red.

FOLIAGE:

Japanese maple foliage is fascinating. The leaves vary tremendously in size, shape, and color. Some species have a delicate, lacy, deeply cut leaves and others have leaves that are almost rounded, while some leaves resemble elm leaves. The color varies much, ranging from green to various shades of reds, pinks, and oranges. Some varieties have string-like leaves and some have all variegated leaves with dramatic color combinations.

CULTURE:

Most varieties of Japanese maple are easy to grow in Texas as long as they are given ample moisture and some protection from the hot afternoon sun. Three leafed varieties are the most susceptible to their foliage edges burning, when this happens, there is really not much that can be done other than change the location of the plant. Japanese maples can be grown in pots. One of the best for pots is the Dwarf Japanese Maple (a. *PALMATUM* *DISECTUM*). Japanese maple needs a moderate amount of fertilizer.

PROBLEMS:

Few problems exist other than the scorch of the leaves during the summer. In most cases cold damage is not a worry unless an extremely hard freeze follows a long warm spell and the plant has not had time to harden off.

INSIGHT:

Yes, it is an introduced plant but it adapts well into Texas gardens.

If you haven't already noticed, Mike's likes Japanese Maples and we have a good selection of them. They are beautiful in any landscape.

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 progresses, 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 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!

