

Hello and welcome to Gardening Express!

If you've not purchased from us before, you've just discovered a well kept secret that gardeners in the know have been enjoying for years. We've built our business from a small concern into a fully fledged wing of the UK's horticultural army; supplying all types of people our plants. From TV shows and celebrities, garden designers and professional landscapers to people just brightening their surroundings at home, we are here to help. The cornerstones of our business are quality, service and value for money. We think you'll agree that the offer you're unpacking is a great deal and we hope to welcome you to our website soon.

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Acer – Japanese Maples - Frequently Asked Questions about these Plants

As a live growing product, the appearance of these Plants can vary throughout the year, and often throw up a few questions. We have covered some of the most common queries below so you can be reassured about the plants you have received. Planting instructions can be found overleaf. Please remember these are hardy plants, ready to grow and thrive in your care, and they are covered by our five year guarantee.

What kind of Acers have I been sent?

These Japanese Maples are all varieties of Acer palmatum, generally compact growing small trees. The varieties can be identified by a label attached to each individual pot. We only supply the top varieties that have been selected as what we feel to be the showiest of their type, and easiest to grow. Colouration can vary depending on the soil and feeding of the plants, and also positioning of the plants in the garden. Planted in soil, the average height of these Acers in 10-15 years is around a maximum of 1.5-2.5m (8ft). Some varieties can be taller, and others shorter. They are easily maintained at shorter heights and as smaller trees with a little seasonal pruning.

Why are my Maples taller/shorter than I expected?

Your plant will vary with the seasons, and may sometimes be shorter or taller depending on the time of the year. Do not be alarmed if you think the plants look small – we will have pruned them for you to promote a great shape and excellent new bushy growth. They will grow very quickly provided they are fed and watered adequately. You must never allow your Acers to completely dry out. If allowed to dry out your plant will lose all of its leaves, but do not be alarmed, they will often reshoot again if kept damp. It is however important to ensure the compost dries a little between each watering, as the plant will become ill if it is waterlogged.

There are lots of dead leaves on the top of the soil, and falling from the plants, should I remove them?

It is perfectly normal for Acer plants to shed older foliage at the end of the growing season in readiness for the dormant winter period when they will have no leaves. This may result in a layer of dead leaves on top of the soil, simply add to the compost heap or green waste recycling, and wait for the tree to burst back in to life in Spring time.

Some of the leaves are brown at the tips, is my plant dying?

No your plant is not dying, this normally happens due to weather conditions and the position you are keeping your trees in. Japanese Maples prefer to be situated in a location that has partial shade, especially when the plants are young, this brings out the best leaf colour and helps avoid scorching during the hot summer months, which can cause the leaf tips to go brown, particularly if the plant goes short of water. The tree can be repositioned to avoid this if needs be. In Spring, late frosts can also have the same effect, as well as strong winds, so a slightly sheltered position is best. We suggest for new young plants that they are kept out of doors, however to avoid late frosts causing this damage you should stand them in over night when it is forecast to be chilly. After the frost risk has passed, and once established in your garden, this should not be necessary. If your trees do get caught by a late frost, and foliage damaged, please be patient, as they will re-grow.

Can I grow my Acer Trees indoors?

It is not recommended to grow these indoors; the home environment is too warm and dry. Acers are fully hardy and needs to be outside to get the optimum amount of daylight to grow and thrive.

Can I keep my Maples in the pots provided?

No, the pots your trees have been sent in are for transit and growing only and are they are too small for them to be kept in long term. They plants can be kept in them safely for a few weeks if you have to, providing they are never allowed to dry out and you feed them, but they will need to be planted into a larger containers or into the garden as soon as possible. Providing you use a good container, quality compost and you water and feed your trees well, they will be fine to be kept potted on the patio for example. Growing in pots can restrict the eventual growth of the plants, and generally to get the most out of them we would recommend planting them in to the ground.

My Tree has been flexed over in the box, will this damage it?

No, your tree will be fine. Occasionally we do this with taller plants, but only on flexible softer new shoots. We do this on purpose to minimise movement in the cartons. We gently flex them over, so that when the cartons are open they often flex back within a few days. If the occasional shoot is damaged, it should simply be trimmed off, as a new one will grow to replace it.