

BOOK NOTICE

J.D. VERTREES. 2001. **Japanese Maples: Momiji and Kaede. Third Edition Revised and Expanded by Peter Gregory.** (ISBN 0-88192-501-2, hbk.). Timber Press, Inc., 133 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527, U.S.A. (Orders: www.timberpress.com, 800-327-5680, 503-227-2878, 503-227-3070 fax). \$49.95, 332 pp, 312 color photos, 4 maps, 8 1/2" × 11".

A comprehensive source of information on the culture, identification, and nomenclature of Japanese maples, this newly revised classic best seller describes each of the 320 cultivars of *Acer palmatum* and 60 cultivars of other Japanese maple species, plus briefly mentions 150 promising new plants. The second edition was selected in 1997 by the American Horticultural Society as one of the 75 great American Garden Books.

This fully updated third edition has been revised by Peter Gregory, chairman of the Maple Society, and is even more comprehensive than its predecessors. The most extensive revision occurs within Chapter 2: *Taxonomy and Nomenclature*. It adds approximately 100 important new maple hybrids and selections that have been introduced since the last revision by the late J.D. Vertrees in 1987. A total of some 320 *A. palmatum* cultivars are described, along with 60 cultivars of other Japanese maple species. Nomenclature has been updated to conform to current taxonomic standards. The cultivar descriptions in Chapter 5: *Acer palmatum and Its Cultivars* have been placed in alphabetical order rather than by group to make the information more easily accessible. Many additional new photographs have been included, and Vertrees' original photos are clearer and sharper thanks to current reproduction technology. The meanings of Japanese names have been added to the descriptions where possible. This proved impractical in many cases as the meaning could not be determined accurately. Appendix B: *Guide to Uses and Characteristics* provides a summary to assist in the selection of specific plants for individual situations, taking into consideration their ultimate size, habit, color, suitability for companion plantings, and dramatic effect in the garden. The *Index* has been expanded to include all the Japanese maple cultivar names published in books, journals, and major catalogs of growers. The list contains synonyms and alternative names, misspellings and misprints, and names of cultivars which are thought to be no longer in cultivation. The *Index* alone should continue to make *Japanese Maples* the foremost dictionary and encyclopedic reference for this cultivar.

Japanese Maples will provide guidance for gardeners, landscapers, nursery owners, and others with an authoritative guide to propagation, cultivation, and horticultural characteristics of this extraordinarily useful group of plants. It will meet the needs of all readers, but especially amateur gardeners, avid plant enthusiasts, and commercial nursery professionals.—Gary L. Jennings, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.



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