

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter

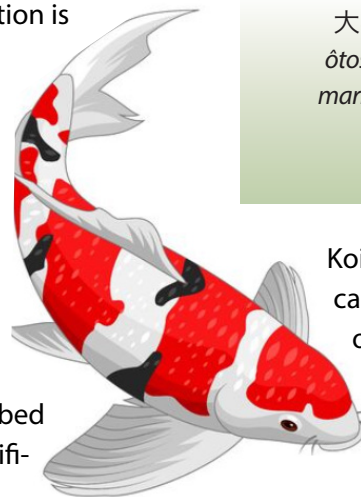


Koi are Complex

In Japan, the name *nishikigoi* (living jewel koi) was a term first used as far back as 200 years ago in a village of Niigata Prefecture in Japan, where farmers bred black carp as a food source. The result was a vibrantly-colored carp (carp means koi in Japanese) that stood out from the rest with its rare beauty. As awareness grew, many started to appreciate koi like a fine work of art.

Now, koi symbolize luck, prosperity, good fortune, strength, and perseverance and are identified as the national fish of Japan and a universal symbol for peace all over the world.

There are over 200 varieties of koi; the most popular classification is *gosanke* which is made up of *kohaku*, *taisho sanshoku sanke*, and *showa sanshoku* varieties. Each class of koi has its own distinct details for identification; colors, patterns, and body confirmation, and are typically described based off another classification within the >200 varieties.



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VIEW

大年にかぎつて雪の降にけり
ôtoshi ni kagitte yuki no furi ni keru
 marking the end, of another year...
 snowfall

— Issa 1806

Koi are incredibly smart. They can be trained to eat from out of your hand *and* mouth. They have an average lifespan of about 50 years and are omnivores that feed on pond plants.

Tips for Pruning Japanese Maples

Maples, oaks, beech and conifers thrive in the more temperate, cool summer climate of the Pacific Northwest, and more specifically the Gresham/Boring/Troutdale area that's influenced by the Columbia River Gorge winds. PNW gardeners and local nurseries are also blessed with abundant, fresh and clean water.

Do you ever wonder why laceleaf maples are found in many yards in your neighborhood? First, they are the most familiar and widespread form of Japanese maples. Second, they are outstanding specimens as accents in lawns, containers, or companion plants.

There are basically two forms of maple trees, the upright and the weeping. The question is, do you know how to prune them? Let's start with talking about their growth habits.

The upright maple grows long, lateral branches that generally extend above and over the viewer. The branches are stiff and fan out with lightweight foliage swaying back and forth with the breeze.

The branches on dissectum varieties, "weeping" or "laceleaf", tend to grow out and downward with very sharply cut,

flimsy leaves.

It's important to understand how maples naturally grow in order to achieve your desired shape. Shaping should start once the young tree is established, about 2-3 years after planting. The most important thing to remember about Japanese maples is, prune often, and lightly (every 6-8 weeks.) Of course, like most people, staying on top of pruning is an arduous, forgotten task. Luckily, maples are forgiving trees, and you won't need to do much to make them look good.

The most important thing to remember about Japanese maples is, prune often, and lightly.

Structural pruning should be done in the dormant season (Nov-Jan), well before the sap starts rising and prior to leaf production. Corrective pruning and minor shaping can be done any time of the year, except Feb-May, when the sap is rising and the plant's energy is devoted to the emergence and development of the young leaves.

All Japanese maples produce branchlets with opposite buds (see Fig 1). On

a long straight shoot, there will be nodes with buds on opposite sides of the shoot. This branching pattern can be seen on any *Acer palmatum* species.

Unlike pines and most evergreens, Japanese maples CAN produce buds on the woody bark of the trunk and large branches. If you remove a limb or branchlet, it's likely a bud and stem will emerge from that cut. When left unpruned, these stems will grow into an unattractive, bushy mess of suckers.

First start with the basic pruning task of removing dead and crossing branches. Once this is done, your next goal is to deal with the 3-way forks that can be found near the end of every branch.

You have seven options for dealing with 3-way forks (see Fig 2). Creating a Y pattern is usually the best option (A, B, C). Doing nothing (D) or leaving the center

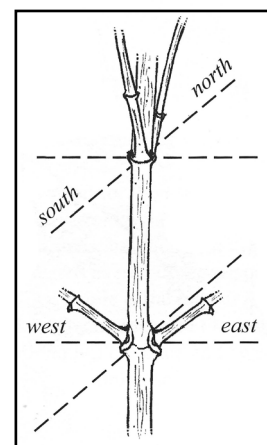


Fig 1 - Branching



GARDENER'S TIP

1. Spread a light coating of wood ash over your vegetable beds.
2. Turn your compost pile and cover it to avoid it becoming too saturated with the rains.
3. Begin planning what seeds to order for indoor starts.

While the soil is looser, eradicate ivy or at least trim it at the base of trees it has climbed.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

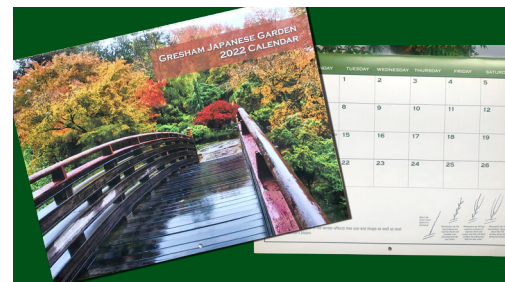
Earn School Credit



Middle schools, high schools, and colleges understand when students volunteer in their community, well-rounded compassionate students may emerge.

Like Nadia, an 8th grader at St. Therese, the Garden is the perfect setting for students to experience horticulture practices, aesthetic pruning, and Japanese landscape and architecture.

2022 Calendars - \$10.00



Support the Garden by purchasing our Gresham Japanese Garden 2022 calendar, featuring spectacular photos of the Garden revealed throughout the seasons.

Send an email to: marketing@greshamjapanesegarden.com

Pruning the Forks cont'd

stem (F) are both less-favorable options. There are also times when it is appropriate to remove one of the outside stems, or the center and one outside stem.

To arrive at your decision, consider the direction you want this branch to grow. You generally want to remove a stem that's pointing back toward the trunk, and keep a stem that's pointing outward from the trunk. By turning a 3-way into a Y, you will help emphasize the pattern, thin out the tree, and help create S-shaped branches that alternate back and forth.

Remember to make your cuts above the branch collar so as not to break the natural barrier of defense against disease.

(See *Basic Pruning*, Dec 2021.)

Remember to always use well-sharp-

ened, clean pruners or snippers to make your cuts.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

1. Try to encourage lateral, not vertical branching.
2. Encourage alternate branching patterns in the trunk and branches.
3. Long straight branches are undesirable. A branch with curves and plenty of Y branches is desirable.
4. Don't prune too much.
5. Strive to allow bits of dappled sunlight to penetrate through evenly distributed foliage.
6. Open up the front of the tree so you can see the tree's handsome trunk.

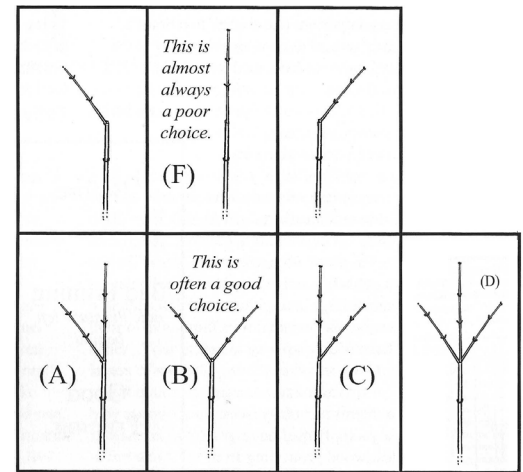


Fig 2 - 3-Way Fork

Sources: *Japanese Maples: The Complete Guide to Selection and Cultivation*, and *Sukiya Living* Nov/Dec 2015.

Gardening Calendar

Keeping a schedule of when to prune, fertilize, and clean up debris can be a helpful resource to gardeners. Below is a compilation of useful action items for gardeners. Think too about turning this calendar into a "working calendar" and include pruning notes.

JANUARY – FEBRUARY

- Winter fertilize all your plants with a lower nitrogen number and higher potassium number, to help plants stay healthy and strong during the winter months.
- Clean, repair, and sharpen gardening tools.
- Structurally prune your maples to the shape you desire.
- Transplant trees or shrubs.

MARCH – APRIL

- Plant ground covers and any ball and burlap (B&B) trees and potted plants.
- Plant plugs in your hanging baskets.
- Check irrigation damage.
- Stake your peonies, hydrangeas, and clematis.
- Repair your trellises.
- Tidy up beds and paths.
- Lightly prune Japanese maples.

MAY – JUNE

- Candle pines (see *June 2021*).
- Repair/add irrigation.
- Repair bamboo fences.
- Apply bark dust to garden beds.
- Prune your blooming broad leaf evergreens such as, rhododendrons, camellias, and azaleas.
- Start feeding koi when water reaches 50°.

JULY – AUGUST

- Weed around your water plants.
- Cut off bamboo rhizomes shoots to contain further running.
- Weed out and water your moss.

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

- Structurally prune to their shape your non-blooming broad leaf evergreens such as, boxwoods, junipers, and euonymus shrubs.

- Gently thin your maples by removing crossing branches and extensive summer growth.
- Plant spring bulbs.
- Transplant moss.
- Divide and transplant lily bulbs.
- Stop feeding koi when water drops below 50° (October).

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

- Fertilize ground cover and turf.
- Cut off bamboo rhizomes shoots to contain further running.
- Remove leaves and debris from paths and under shrubs and trees.
- Thin hedges.
- Trim ferns back to the ground before fronds emerge.
- Dry bamboo lumber.

2021 in Retrospect

We're very fortunate that the pandemic did not halt the good work of the Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden. Plants still grew, weeds still tried to overrun the space, volunteers worked wearing masks, and the Garden never closed.

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FREE CLASSES

This was the first time we conducted classes. In all, we put on eight free classes, one on Zoom and the rest in person.

NEWSLETTER

Yes, we brought the newsletter back! Fostering sustainability means informing and teaching the community.

COMMUNITY READER BOARD

This was in the works in 2020, and then completed in 2021. Thanks to Nick Bacon for taking this project on for his Eagle Scout service.

AMBLESIDE ANNEX

We finished building Ambleside Annex which includes a pollinator garden. This summer, Deb Peters reported she saw butterflies and bees on the pollinator plants that we grew in the greenhouse.

HANGING FLOWER BASKETS

We finally were able to make large hanging flower baskets and install at Main City Park. Our first year's hurdles were water and worms. We learned by trial and error.

HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

This fall, our students from Gresham-Barlow School District returned to the Garden's Horticulture program. The students have been busy repotting azaleas and lily grass, making mud balls, prepping seeds for next year's Pollinator Garden plantings, and learning basic pruning skills.

RESTROOM

Thanks to Lynne Page, Christina Price, Dino Rocha (all with Edward Jones), Chase Me Again, Portland Star Plumbing, McCord Construction, and Orient Electric provided us with an accessible restroom which will be ready by early 2022. We also gained a working kitchen, so grab a cup of tea, and join us for conversation on Garden Saturdays.

TRAVELING DISPLAY

Thanks to Gresham's Riverview Community Bank, we've been able to promote the Garden and Japanese culture through a display in their foyer.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



2021 SUMMER CULTURAL SERIES

For five weekends this past summer, we orchestrated Japanese cultural performances and

workshops. For most of the performers, this was the first time they performed live in a year!

We had 50-80 attendees each weekend. The Garden volunteers worked hard to offer a positive experience for everyone. We thank the City of Gresham for the Cultural & Arts Assistance Grant to bring Japanese culture awareness to the community!



THE MADARIN DUCK

A second Rip Caswell sculpture adorns Ebetsu Plaza. This one was donated by David and Kendra Baumann and family, and GOPA, in loving memory of their friend, Steve Terrill.

2022 Japanese Cultural Workshops

THE ART OF BONSAI

Third Saturday of the month: 1-3pm

Connect with nature and experience the stress-relieving benefits of this hobby. Learn the art bonsai arrangement with instructor, Mark Vossbrink. In each workshop a new plant is introduced and shaped to bonsai. **Cost: \$35.00**

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/calendar/art-of-bonsai-5/>

IKEBANA ARRANGEMENT

Tuesdays - 1-3pm: January 11, March 8, May 10, July 12, Sept. 6, November 8

Nana Bellerud covers flower arranging concepts, techniques, tools, and plant care. Participants may use the instructor's vases and tools. **Cost: \$55.00**

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/product/ikebana-for-the-season/>

ORIGAMI FOR EVERYONE

Saturdays - 3-4:15pm: February 12, March 12, April 9

Eileen Holzman, artist, retired art educator, and art therapist teaches children and adults how to fold models that include geometric boxes, animals, insects and designs using beautiful colored and patterned papers. **Cost: \$20.00**

<https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/product/family-origami-folding/>